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## Material Handling System for Robotic Natural Orifice Surgery

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# MATERIAL HANDLING SYSTEM FOR ROBOTIC NATURAL ORIFICE SURGERY

by

Jeff Middy

A THESIS

Presented to the Faculty of  
The Graduate College at the University of Nebraska

In Partial Fulfillment of Requirements

For the Degree of Master of Science

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Under the Supervision of Professor Carl A. Nelson

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# MATERIAL HANDLING SYSTEM FOR ROBOTIC NATURAL ORIFICE SURGERY

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University of Nebraska, 2012

Advisor: Carl A. Nelson

Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES) is a relatively new surgical approach which uses no external incisions, thereby improving cosmetic outcomes, decreasing overall recovery time and reducing the risk of external infection. In standard NOTES, flexible endoscopic tools have been used to carry out a variety of surgical procedures in the abdomen. As an alternative, miniature *in vivo* robots can be fully inserted into the peritoneal cavity and utilized to perform various surgical procedures. These *in vivo* robots eliminate tool triangulation issues, improve multi-tasking capabilities and greatly increase freedom and dexterity when compared to standard endoscopic and laparoscopic tools. One major limitation is that once inserted, the *in vivo* robots are isolated within the abdomen and cannot send or receive materials to the external environment. The focus of this thesis is a Material Handling System (MHS) that has been developed to bridge this deficiency.

This system features a flexible silicone overtube and an open-loop control system with manual and automatic operation capabilities. The system utilizes the helix of a spring to advance a payload along the length of the overtube. All of the design rationale, design decisions, components and materials are discussed. Additional description of all of the electronic hardware, coupled with the programming logic, provides detailed insight into the open-loop control strategy. The bench-top and *in vivo* testing results of the completed device are presented.

This thesis also addresses finite element modeling of the dimensional changes of silicone tubing under bending. The model looks at the complex issue of modeling a continuum rubber such as silicone, validated experimentally. The model provides general guidelines for the bending and kinking properties of a wide variety of tubing diameters and thicknesses. This tubing model can increase an engineer's ability to properly dimension and tolerance an overtube, such as that found in the MHS, based on the bending criteria of the device.

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## Chapter 1: Introduction

In decades past, almost all surgical procedures were performed through “open” approaches. The surgical operating theatre has seen a paradigm shift from open procedures to a combination of laparoscopic and endoscopic minimally invasive surgery (MIS) techniques. The promise of reduced recovery time and decreased risk for infection has turned laparoscopic surgery into the new standard in healthcare. Additionally, endoscopic medical procedures have been in use for several decades for a number of procedures such as foreign object removal, ultrasonic imaging and injection therapy. More recently, endoscopy has also been adapted to perform increasingly advanced surgical procedures. These MIS procedures do have some limitations: reduced instrument maneuverability due to the constraint of surgical access points, difficulty maintaining proper visual orientation, and when using multiple tools in concert, difficult triangulation (accessing the surgical site from different angles).

An alternative to these MIS procedures is Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES). NOTES does not require any external incisions, but rather passes surgical instrumentation through a natural orifice such as the esophagus and into the abdominal cavity. This natural access point further decreases the risk of infection, completely eliminates visible scarring, and expedites the recovery process. The downside of NOTES, like traditional endoscopy, involves the spatial and tool triangulation issues associated with the kinematic constraints imposed by the access method.

To eliminate the spatial constraints, a novel use of robotics can be employed. Miniature *in vivo* robots can be inserted via a natural orifice access point, and once introduced into the abdominal cavity, have the freedom and dexterity to navigate the entire region uninhibited by the access point. Fully inserting *in vivo* robots into the body introduces a limitation as they are physically isolated from the surgeons performing the procedure.

This thesis presents a novel device to eliminate the miniature *in vivo* robots' isolation from the surgeons and the external environment. The device, a Material Handling System (MHS) shown in Figure 1-1, which closely resembles a traditional therapeutic endoluminal endoscope, is inserted via the same natural orifice access point as the *in vivo* robots. The MHS remains in the natural orifice for the duration of a surgical procedure. The device has a primary working channel for securing and transporting payloads between the robots and the external environment. The MHS is also equipped with secondary and tertiary lumens through which additional features, including steering, lighting, video access, suction and irrigation, can be provided.

The MHS utilizes a flexible silicone rubber overtube. Like most soft rubber tubing, the dimensions of silicone rubber tubing change during flexure. This property becomes a driving factor when selecting proper geometry and clearances for components which operate within the overtube. For this reason, this thesis also presents the development of a finite element (FE) model of a cylindrical silicone tube.



**Figure 1-1:** NOTES Material Handling System

## Chapter 2: Background

### 2.1 MIS: Laparoscopy, LESS & NOTES

Minimally invasive surgery (MIS) is a broad label applied to any procedure that is done through a small incision or no incision at all. The first MIS procedure on a human was performed in 1910 by Hans Christian Jacobaeus [2-1], but this method was not widely adopted until the 1990s [2-2, 2-3]. MIS offers a large number of patient benefits, including reduced risk of infection, smaller incisions, less scarring and faster recovery times [2-4]. MIS presents a large number of challenges for a surgeon including poor depth perception, difficulty orienting and triangulating instruments, and spatial limitations introduced by the constraint of the access point.

Traditional laparoscopic surgery involves making a series of small incisions for multiple tools to pass into the abdominal cavity, as shown in Figure 2-1. Tools are usually passed through trocars, surgical instruments with a cutting point enclosed in a tube, or a gel port. The abdominal cavity is “insufflated” with low-pressure carbon dioxide to lift the abdominal wall above the organs, making room for the surgical instruments and allowing for visualization of the surgical field.



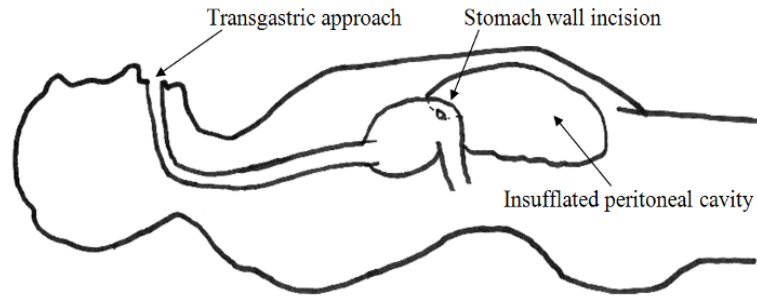
**Figure 2-1:** Laparoscopic abdominal surgery – external setup [2-5]

Laparoendoscopic Single-Site (LESS) surgery is the next evolution of MIS procedures. LESS has been proven to reduce operation time and has comparable complications to traditional laparoscopy through a number of procedures such as cholecystectomies and appendectomies [2-6]. LESS surgical procedures present a unique challenge in that the instrumentation is crossed at the point of entry, making the external right-hand instrument the left instrument internally and vice versa [2-7]. An external view of a transumbilical LESS procedure is shown in Figure 2-2.



**Figure 2-2:** Transumbilical laparoendoscopic single-site surgery [2-7]

Natural Orifice Translumenal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES) is the next level of decreased invasiveness in the MIS category. Traditional endoscopic surgery utilizes flexible, articulated instruments introduced through canals (working channels) in an endoscope to perform a variety of procedures, mainly in the peritoneal cavity [2-8]. NOTES builds off this basic endoscopic platform, and often uses a transgastric approach to gain entry to the abdominal cavity (Figure 2-3).



**Figure 2-3:** Tract for NOTES transgastric approach

NOTES eliminates the need for external incisions, vastly reducing the risk of external infection and expediting recovery [2-9]. NOTES is also advantageous compared to other MIS techniques because most organs are best accessed from a transluminal approach [2-10]. NOTES has been proven with successful survival animal surgeries [2-11] and Rao et al. performed the first NOTES procedure on a human [2-12]. The natural orifice access points, while having many patient benefits, present challenges for introducing instrumentation through the restrictive lumen size. Additionally, when using multiple tools, as in laparoscopy [2-13], tool triangulation can be difficult. Currently, however, the main downside to the approach is the lack of enabling technology [2-14].

## **2.2 Surgical Robots**

Robotics has been moving rapidly to the forefront of the surgical world. There have been several laparoscopic robots approved by the FDA, including AESOP, da Vinci® and Zeus. The Automated Endoscopic System for Optimal Positioning (AESOP) is a camera control robot for laparoscopic procedures, but had little other functionality [2-15:2-17]. The da Vinci® system, created by Intuitive Surgical, is a cable-driven system with disposable tools capable of performing many laparoscopic procedures. The da Vinci® can also be operated via telepresence, as it provides a stereoscopic image of the patient and the workspace to the surgeon operating the robot and the control consoles can

be networked [2-18]. The Zeus system, created by Computer Motion, is a remotely operated system like the da Vinci®, but uses robotic arms that mimic the surgeon, and it does not have the same telepresence capability. These surgical systems have proven very effective in MIS [2-19], but lack dexterity to perform NOTES procedures.

## **2.3 Endoscopes**

Dexterity is necessary for natural orifice procedures because of the need for unusual orientation of surgical tools [2-20]. Currently for NOTES, there are a number of non-robotic endoscopic devices on the market, most notably the Transport and the Cobra created by USGI Medical and Swanstrom et al. [2-21]. The Transport utilizes four large access channels and a 4-way steering tip. Most endoscopes have triangulation issues [2-22], and the Cobra aims to eliminate these issues by using three independent arms with fixed instrumentation. It has not been widely successful due to the imprecise control and time consuming nature of changing the instruments [2-23].

There are also several endoscopic based robotic platforms that are commercially available. Olympus designed the “R” scope specifically for NOTES procedures, shown in Figure 2-4. The device is similar to a therapeutic scope and has channels for suction, irrigation and for instruments to pass through. The tip is also dual-articulated, meaning it can bend in two separate directions, and the tip can also move freely when the rest of the body is locked. The device is difficult to control, is visually disorienting, and generates less-than-acceptable force levels to operate properly [2-24].





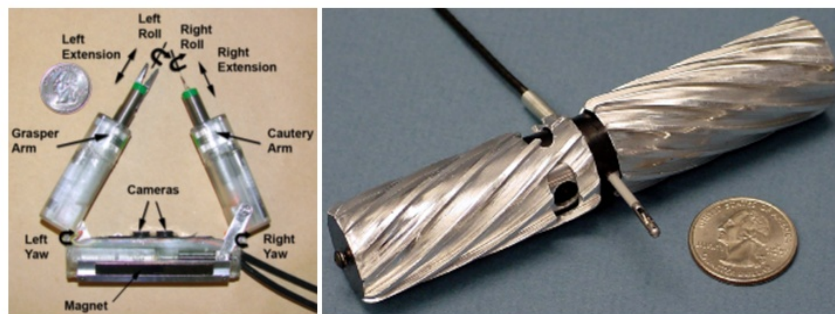
**Figure 2-4:** Olympus “R” scope for NOTES procedures [2-24]

The ViaCath System is a commercially available device that utilizes haptic feedback, and is set up in a master-slave configuration [2-25]. Both the ViaCath and the “R” scope are cable driven, which is reported by Lirici et al. to be too imprecise [2-26]. Other control mechanisms have been developed – a tendon and sheath configuration by Phee [2-27], and a rigid cylindrical link system by Ota [2-28]. The tendon and sheath method proved to have delay and hysteresis during operation, and the cylindrical link system provided larger force capability, but was still actuated by cable.

The multifunctional articulating surgical robot, developed by Nelson et al. [2-29], utilizes a single end-effector arm that is attached to a steerable and shape lockable drive system. The robot is equipped with a rotary tool changer, enabling up to three different tools to be utilized during a procedure, without ever removing the device from the natural access point. The aim of the device is to provide a dexterous robotic platform that can supply improved force transmission compared to the other commercially available NOTES endoscopes. All of these endoscopic platforms are dexterous enough (i.e., have enough degrees of freedom) to perform NOTES procedures, but platform stability, force generation, triangulation difficulty and accuracy issues are all still present.

## 2.4 Dexterous *in vivo* Robots

An alternative to traditional endoscope-based techniques is using *in vivo* miniature robots for NOTES. These *in vivo* robots can be fully introduced into the peritoneal cavity via a transgastric, transvaginal or transcolonic approach [2-30]. Several examples of *in vivo* robots (Figure 2-5) have been developed and tested on porcine models. [2-30:2-37].



**Figure 2-5:** *In vivo* robots [2-30], [2-31] (© [2008], [2006] IEEE)

One early example, developed by Lehman et al., is a stereoscopic two-armed dexterous robot [2-30]. The arms can be folded flat during insertion, and can be re-oriented once situated in the abdominal cavity. The robot is attached to the upper interior abdominal wall via an external magnet system. The robot can be maneuvered around the insufflated abdominal cavity via the external magnet. The robot was originally intended for vision and task assistance during laparoscopic procedures [2-32]. Further iterations of the design showed the feasibility to apply significant forces and can be operated in multiple orientations [2-33]. Dumpert et al. outfitted the system with a proportional-integral (PI) controller and a vision system to allow semi-autonomous tasks to be completed [2-34]. The main limitation is that manual manipulation of the robot is required to move its limited workspace to a desired location.

Another type of miniature robotic platform is the mobile, wheeled *in vivo* robots originally developed by Rentschler et al. [2-35]. These robots are long and slender, consist of one tool and are equipped with their own on-board camera. The robot is capable of producing large mechanical forces and is capable of biopsying hepatic tissue. Further iterations of the robot were designed by Hawks et al. and included advancements such as wireless operation, and require no external systems other than the surgical interface [2-36]. These robots were also proven to be useful in cooperative applications, with each robot being equipped with a different tool to accomplish a singular task [2-37].

### **2.4.1 Deficiency**

Once inserted into the body, these *in vivo* robots have significantly more freedom and flexibility, as space constraints and tool triangulation issues are drastically reduced in the insufflated abdominal cavity. Fully inserting *in vivo* robots into the body introduces a new limitation as they are physically isolated from the surgeons performing the procedure. This limitation has not yet been addressed.

## Chapter 3: Motivation

The miniature mobile *in vivo* robots have shown a lot of promise for NOTES procedures and have been embodied in a number of forms. These robots all share the same affliction that once inserted they are isolated from the outside environment. In the case of a biopsy robot, once the tissue has been excised, it may be desirable for the robot to continue working; in that case the tissue currently being held needs to be transported out of the body, but there are no external incisions to reach in and grab it. In the case of a multifunctional robot that is capable of using a number of different tools, it may be desirable for new tools to be transported near the surgical site and oriented properly so the robot can grab them. In the case of a suturing robot, if more staples or sutures are required than are located on board the robot, a means is needed by which more material can be provided.

Current technology suggests that a simple therapeutic endoscope with a grasper could be passed through a natural orifice, e.g., esophagus, vagina, or colon, and sent to administer or receive a payload. This approach is flawed in that each time the scope is passed into and out of the natural orifice, more patient trauma is induced, and operation time is increased. An alternative method might be to insert all of the tools, sutures, staples, etc. that the robot might need throughout an operation at the beginning of the procedure. All removed tissues could be placed in refuse bags, and then once the procedure is complete, all materials could be removed at once. The flaw with this approach is that there is limited space within the peritoneal cavity, and crowding it with unnecessary supplies would only hinder a procedure's speed and effectiveness. Another

issue is that remnants could potentially be left behind, which poses a serious risk for post-operative infection and other complications.

A new technology is needed that can move any required payload between the *in vivo* robots and the outside environment while minimizing patient trauma and risk of infection, and reducing the amount of equipment needed inside the abdominal cavity. This thesis presents a device, a Material Handling System (MHS) which is inserted via the same natural access point as the *in vivo* robots, and remains in the orifice for the duration of a procedure. The primary functionality of the device is to secure and transport payloads through a working channel within an overtube. The MHS is also equipped with features including steering capability for insertion, lighting, video access, suction and irrigation.

## Chapter 4: Physical Design – Insertion Assembly

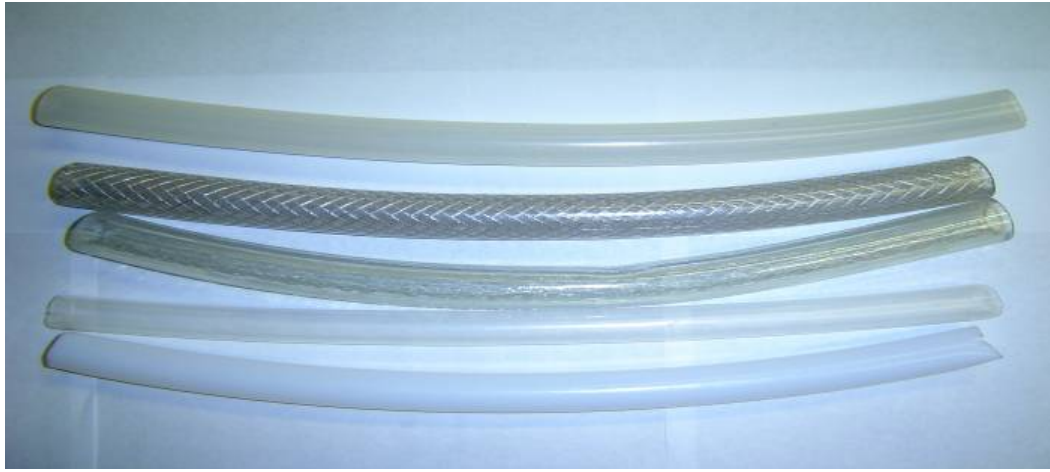
### 4.1 Design Functionality

The basis of designing any device for a NOTES procedure is the geometric constraints imposed by the natural orifice access point. Gaining entry into the abdominal cavity with a transvaginal approach is the most common method [4-1]; however, a transgastric approach is the most restrictive NOTES approach, and is applicable to both males and females; therefore the spatial design parameters are established from the anatomy of this tract. The average esophagus has a bend radius of 7.5cm and generally an endoscope does not exceed 1 m in length. These dimensions allow a 25mm diameter tube to be inserted along its length [4-2]. Based on esophageal constraints, the main functionality of the device is achieved with three distinct components: a compliant overtube, a material interface device and a drive system. These three coupled features provide the bridge between the *in vivo* robots and the surgical team.

#### 4.1.1 Compliant Overtube

The first component of the Material Handling System is a compliant overtube, which is necessary to protect the patient from any trauma and provide adequate access to the peritoneal cavity. It also needs to be able to bend to the desired contours of the esophagus as well as make the necessary high-angle turn to navigate from the esophagus to the incision in the stomach wall to access the peritoneal cavity. Various types of PTFE, silicone and vinyl materials were initially screened (Figure 4-1) for their biocompatibility and for their varying magnitudes of friction and flexure properties. Simple, physical bend radius and overall compliance tests showed the PTFE and vinyl materials are not flexible enough to match the contours required for surgery. Silicone has

the best combination of flexural properties and rigidity, and is also a commonly used biomaterial.

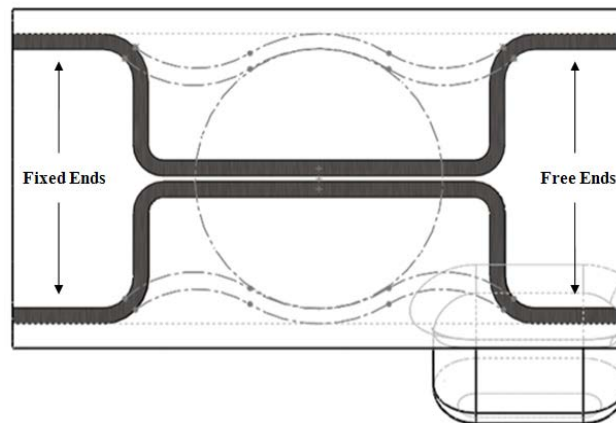


**Figure 4-1:** Overtube selection array, top to bottom: silicone, braided vinyl, plain vinyl, ET-PTFE, and CR-PTFE

The inherent issue with a silicone overtube and many other rubbery polymers is their high coefficient of friction. Depending on surface conditions, coefficients of friction greater than 3 are possible [4-3]. Both wet and dry lubricants may be applied to the surface of the silicone to reduce friction, thereby increasing the wear life of the system. It is desirable to use a more permanent dry coating, eliminating the need for reapplication. The typically selected dry coating is mechanically bonded Parylene, a rigid friction-reduction coating applied by vapor deposition. This treatment is expensive and usually cracks over time. Instead, a chemically bonded elastomeric coating, SlickSil® LSR (Surface Solutions Group, LLC), has been selected. This lower cost treatment is made specifically for medical silicones, reduces surface friction by approximately 50% and also has anti-microbial properties; it is USP class IV certified for biocompatibility.

### 4.1.2 Material Capture Device

A material interface to “shuttle” items between the miniature *in vivo* robots and the outside environment must be placed within the overtube. The interface must secure and properly orient the payload it is requested to carry. Possible materials the device may carry include various robotic tool tips, staples, refuse bags, and excised tissue. Many of the *in vivo* robots are still evolving, and tool tips such as cauteries, forceps and shears have varying geometries, so it is desirable to have a flexible platform to accept future generations of robotic tools. Passive compliant members are used to secure payload materials within the shuttle. These members are fabricated using a thin ribbon of a superelastic Shape Memory Alloy (SMA), Nitinol, shaped into a plateau-like profile (Figure 4-2) and run the length of the shuttle. The geometry of the “spring grasper” allows it to readily accept materials up to 4.8mm in diameter and 20mm long, so the shuttle can traverse the prescribed bend radius. Once the payload is fully inserted into the shuttle, the spring grasper provides a clamping force to secure the item.



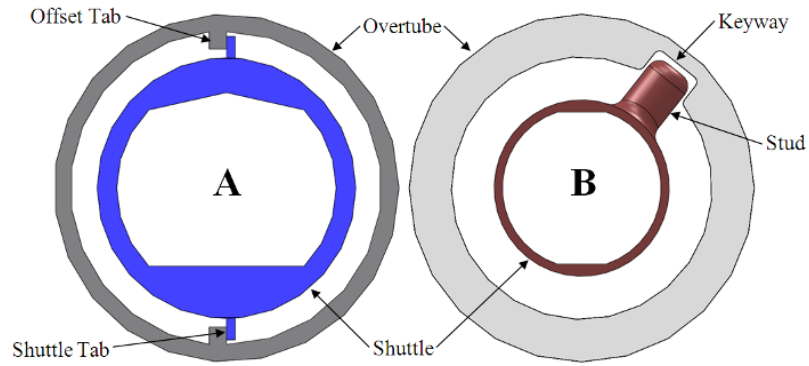
**Figure 4-2:** Passive Nitinol spring grasper (light lines approximate deflected contour)



### 4.1.3 Drive System

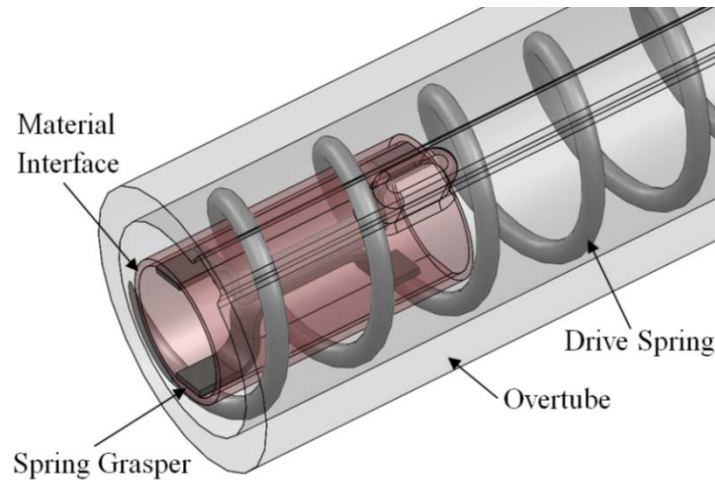
Once material is placed in the spring grasper, it must traverse the length of the overtube. It is desirable that this operation be automated, and that it be as fast as possible, to minimize the impact on a procedure's duration, with the overall device being small in size (less than Ø25mm). A twist-tip mechanical pencil served as a source of inspiration for the design of this device. The material delivery system utilizes the helix of a spring to advance the shuttle, just as the pencil advances the pencil lead. As the spring rotates, the shuttle advances along the length of the overtube. The spring will be placed into the ID of the overtube, and will be longitudinally constrained so that it cannot translate, but only rotate on its longitudinal axis. The spring grasper is placed within a rigid "shuttle" which is concentrically positioned within the drive spring. For the shuttle to translate with respect to the overtube, it cannot be permitted to rotate.

To prevent the shuttle from rotating within the overtube, it must be mechanically constrained to the tubing. Initially an offset tab design to orient the shuttle with respect to the overtube (Figure 4-3A) was selected. Two tabs on the shuttle would contact opposing tabs on the tubing, thus restricting rotation. Silicone is a very difficult material to manufacture in any type of complex shape with marginal precision, and as a result, this idea was abandoned. After investigating manufacturing feasibility with several extrusion companies who specialized in medical silicone extrusions, adding a longitudinal groove or keyway slot to the tubing was a more feasible design. The shuttle has a protruding stud (Figure 4-3B) that fits between two coils of the drive spring and into the keyway in the overtube.



**Figure 4-3:** Shuttle/overtube geometry (A) Offset tab configuration, (B) Shuttle tab configuration

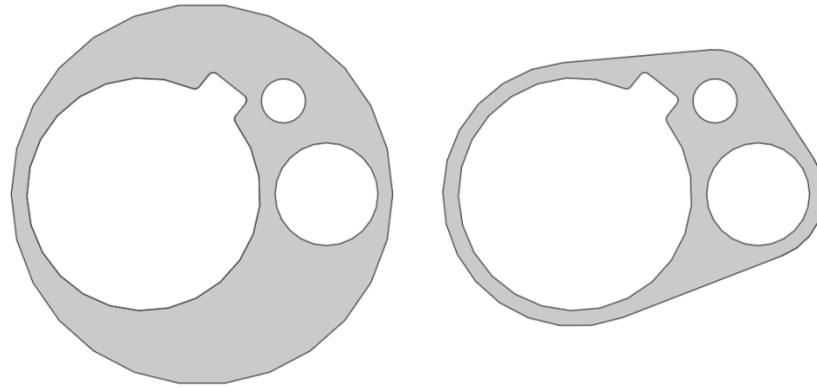
The shuttle, drive spring and overtube are all oriented concentrically, and use each other as bearing surfaces (Figure 4-4). The spring is made from Ø1.6mm 316 stainless steel, selected for its biocompatibility and relative strength. By controlling the number of coils per inch, and the rotation rate, friction can be minimized. If there are too many coils per inch, then there is an excess of bearing surface, increasing frictional forces. If the spring is rotated too quickly, then excessive heat buildup may be generated, which increases the coefficient of friction on the silicone surface. A rotation rate of 120 rpm with 1.2 coils/cm allows the shuttle to traverse the entire system length in approximately 50 seconds. A stepper motor with position control is used to automate the process and will be discussed later.



**Figure 4-4:** Primary functionality illustration

## 4.2 Design Features

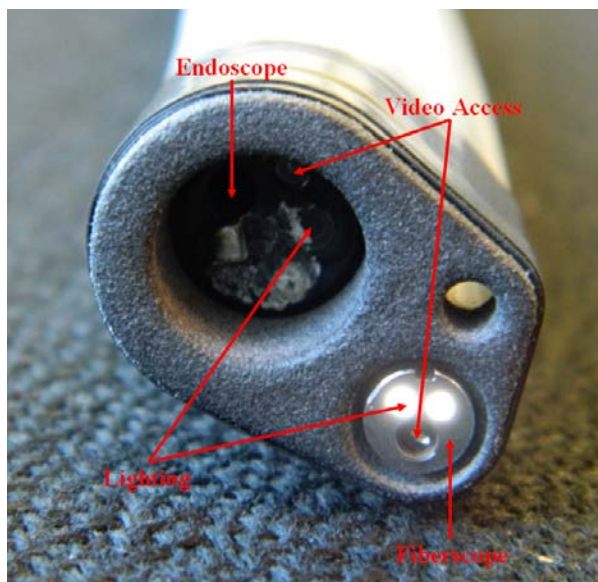
In addition to the primary functionality of the system, several additional features add value to the overall system's impact on NOTES procedures. These additional features are steering, lighting and video capability, suction, and irrigation. To add these features, modifications to the overtube geometry in Figure 4-4 must be made. Adding secondary and tertiary lumens allows for these features to be added. Although most overtubes used in endoscopy are cylindrical in shape, the esophagus is relatively compliant, and will conform to quasi-round shapes with an effective diameter  $\leq 25\text{mm}$  [4-2]. Effective diameter is calculated by taking the total perimeter of the non-round cross-section and calculating the diameter of a round tube with the same perimeter. Placing three lumens into a non-round tubing cross-section will enable a more compact design when compared to a round OD with the same three lumens (Figure 4-5).



**Figure 4-5:** Comparison of round vs. non-round cross-sections

### 4.2.1 Steering

Having the ability to steer the system as it is inserted through the gastrointestinal tract and into the peritoneal cavity is paramount for proper placement. Steering the device can be achieved by a number of methods including custom shape memory alloys (SMAs), cables, hydraulics and pneumatics. Steering can also be achieved by inserting an endoscope or articulated fiberscope into the overtube. Because of the sensitivity of SMAs to minor temperature changes, the relative complexity of cable driven systems, and the relative bulk of pneumatic systems, inserting a pre-existing articulated device such as a flexible borescope (fiberscope) or endoscope into the system is the best option, shown in Figure 4-6.



**Figure 4-6:** Standard endoscope and articulated fiberscope inserted into the overtube

The system has been designed to accommodate both standard 11mm endoscopes and standard 6mm fiberscopes. The endoscope will fit in the main working channel of the MHS; however, the drive spring and shuttle must first be removed. These components have been designed in a modular fashion, meaning they can be removed and re-inserted as a monolithic assembly. Once the overtube assembly is in its desired location, the endoscope can be removed from the channel and the spring and shuttle assembly can be replaced. There is a secondary lumen in the overtube that will accept any flexible 6mm inspection fiberscope. This channel is isolated from the rest of the working environment, eliminating the need for a medical-grade fiberscope. The primary advantage to using the fiberscope is that it can remain in the MHS for the duration of the procedure, enabling the use of its built-in lighting and video capability throughout a procedure, and eliminating the need to disassemble the main working channel of the device.

### **4.2.2 Lighting and Video**

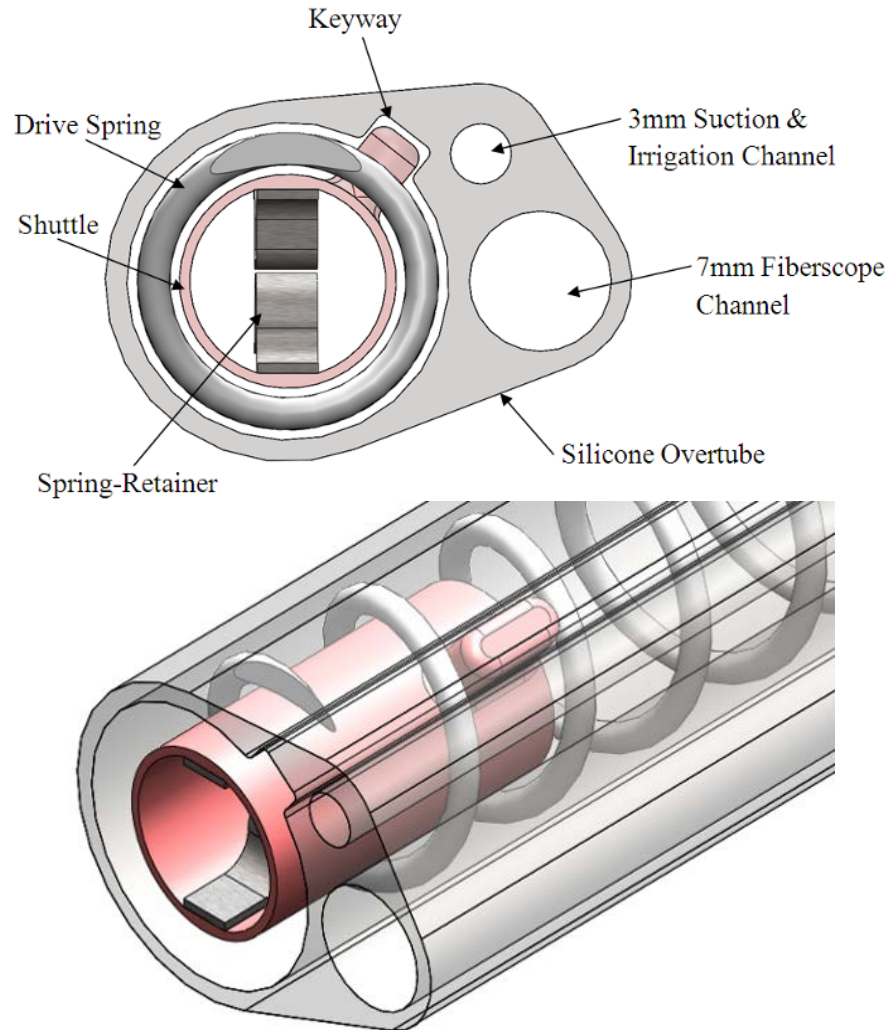
As stated in the previous section, lighting and video capabilities can both be achieved through a secondary lumen by using a fiberscope.. A non-articulated fiberscope is significantly (~10 times) less expensive than the articulated variety. Most operating rooms that would be utilized for NOTES procedures would be equipped with an endoscope. Therefore a significant cost savings can be had by using an endoscope to articulate the tube, without investing in an articulated fiberscope. Having the non-articulating fiberscope provides lighting and video capability throughout a procedure and adds little cost and minimal complexity to the device.

### **4.2.3 Suction and Irrigation**

Suction and irrigation are commonly used during surgery [4-2], and as such, are useful additions to the Material Handling System. A 3mm channel with a 2mm wall thickness is implemented to sustain the -710 mmHg pressure at which most surgical suction machines operate. To verify the capacity to withstand vacuum pressure, the overtube was attached to a roughing pump at one end, and sealed at the other. The tube was then bent to its minimum bend radius (7.5 cm), at which point no collapse was seen. Irrigation can also be passed through this same 3mm lumen.

## **4.3 Final Design**

Figure 4-7 shows the modified system geometry with all of the additional aforementioned functionalities. The system, although having a maximum cross-sectional width of 28mm, has an effective circular diameter of 22.6mm, which is well under the allowable 25mm effective diameter of the human esophagus.



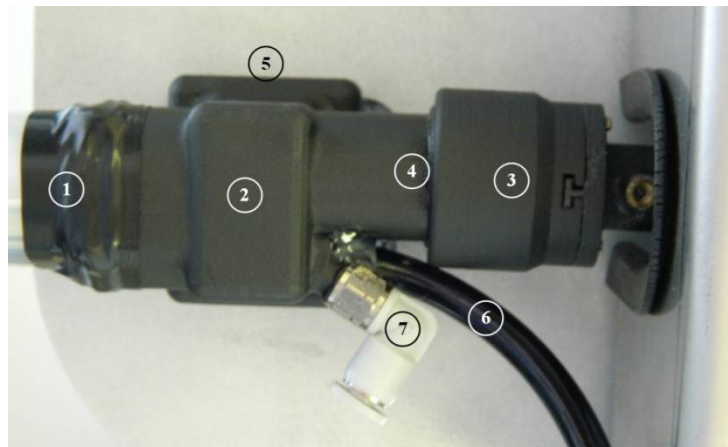
**Figure 4-7:** Material handling system cross-section

#### **4.4 Insertion Assembly – Other Details**

Payloads can be inserted or removed from either end of the system. The inserted end of the overtube has a simple retention cap to retain the spring and flexible endoscope (Figure 4-8). The distribution cap is more complicated as it routes all three lumens to their respective purposes; the primary lumen to the drive motor, the secondary lumen to a camera mount, and the tertiary lumen to a suction/irrigation port (Figure 4-9).



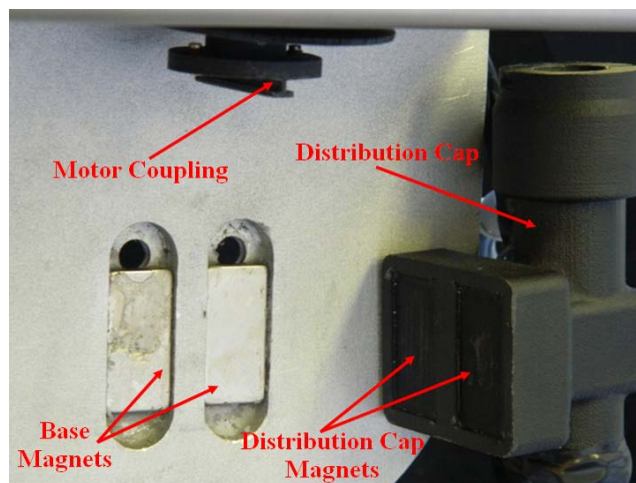
**Figure 4-8:** Inserted retention cap



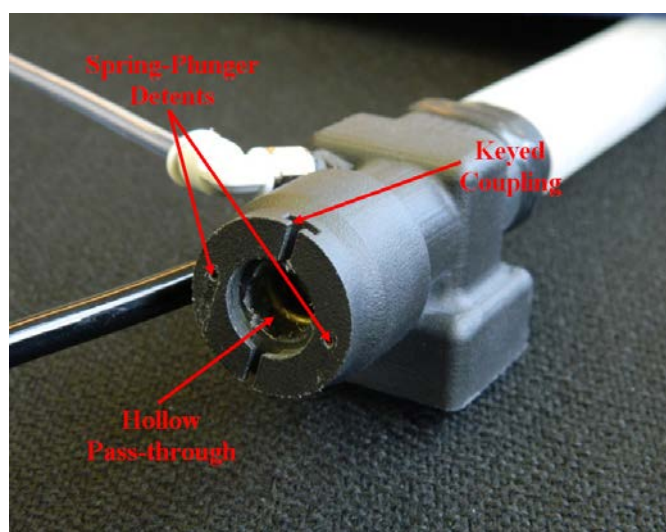
**Figure 4-9:** Distribution cap. (1) overtube, (2) grip pad, (3) motor coupling, (4) rotary insufflation seal, (5) magnetic attachment base, (6) fiberscope outlet, (7) 4mm quick connect suction/irrigation fitting

The tubing assembly is attached to a grip pad. The grip pad couples with the control interface via a neodymium magnet (Figure 4-10), and to the drive motor via a keyed coupling. The keyed coupling uses spring plungers to provide positive locking, while allowing for easy removal. The grip pad and keyed coupling have a hollow passageway that allows the surgical team access to the payload located within the shuttle, shown in Figure 4-11.





**Figure 4-10:** Magnetic attachment point for the distribution cap



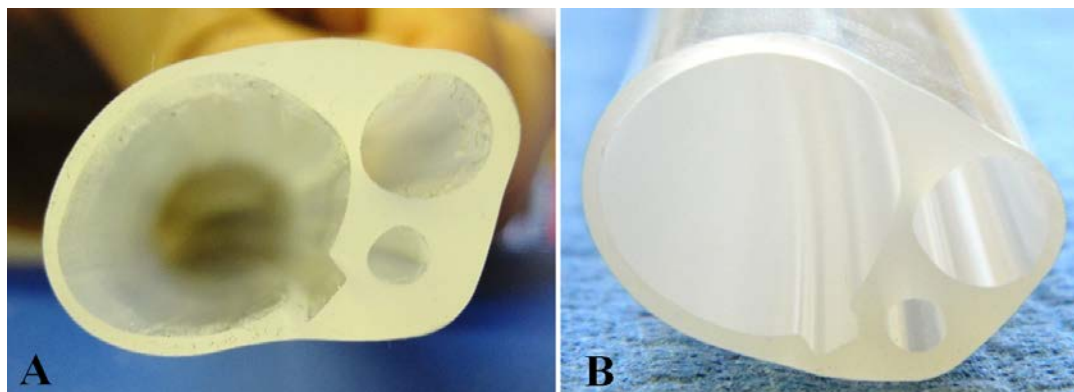
**Figure 4-11:** Grip pad and coupling diagram

One major concern during a NOTES procedure is maintaining abdominal insufflation. To maintain this pressure, there is a rotary insufflation seal (O-ring) between the grip pad of the distribution cap and the motor coupling. The distribution cap routes the fiberscope away from the coupling and into a camera, to allow for remote visualization. There is also a 4mm flexible quick connector to hook up a suction/irrigation machine. When an operator wishes to insert or remove an object into

the spring grasper, the distribution cap can be removed with one hand by grasping the grip pad and perpendicularly pulling the assembly away from the control interface.

#### 4.5 Special Manufacturing Considerations

The design of the silicone overtube was largely dictated by manufacturability of the product. Extruding small features (<1mm) is possible on tubing with lumens less than 10mm in diameter. From 10-25mm, feature sizes no less than 1mm are possible, as the material will not flow through the extrusion dies properly. It is for this reason that a minimum wall thickness of 1mm was required. Also, to improve the tolerances of the tubing, a high durometer (80 Shore A) was selected so that the material would flow more precisely during the extrusion process. Additionally, silicone rubber, once extruded, must be vulcanized to lock in the shape. Before the silicone is vulcanized, droop due to gravity can occur, such as shown in Figure 4-12A. To remedy this issue, the overtube was extruded vertically, shown in Figure 4-12B.

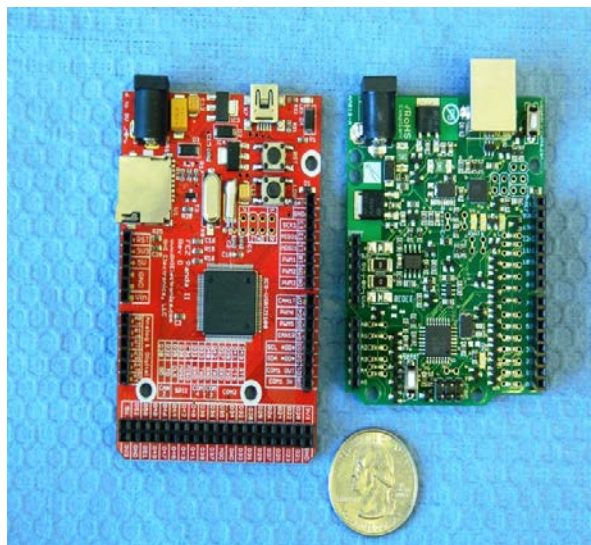


**Figure 4-12:** (A) Horizontal extrusion droop; (B) Accurate vertical extrusion

## Chapter 5: Electronics and Control System

### 5.1 Microprocessor and Motor Driver

It is desirable to keep all electronics outside the harsh environment of the human body. The first and most critical component that must be selected is the control module. There are a number of different solutions available; including pre-configured GUI systems like National Instruments cRIO and the dSPACE prototyping system. These solutions are very expensive, and have far more capabilities than are required for the Material Handling System. The least expensive route is to choose a basic microcontroller that utilizes basic digital/analog I/Os and a common high-level programming language such as C. Two boards were selected for testing, the Ruggeduino and the FEZ Panda II, shown in Figure 5-1.

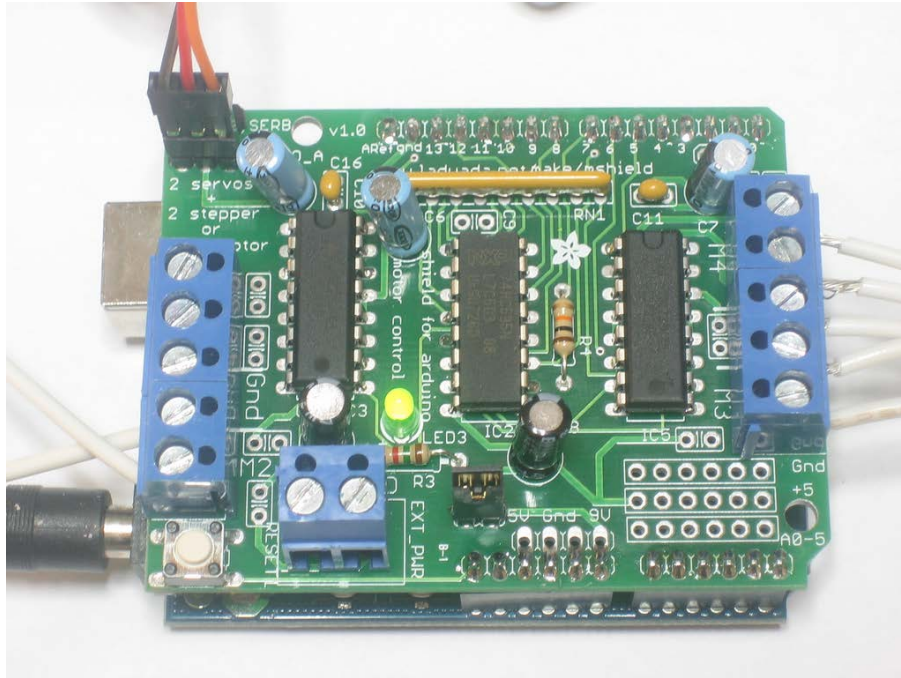


**Figure 5-1:** FEZ Panda II (left), Ruggeduino (right)

The Arduino platform is a very common hobby and prototyping microcontroller. Programming is done in traditional C through an Arduino bootloader. The downside to the Arduino is that it only operates at 16MHz, and has a limited number of I/Os. As an

alternative, the 72MHz 32-bit FEZ Panda II is a so-called “netduino”, meaning it is based off the Arduino platform and can utilize all of the same shields and hardware, but is instead programmed from the .NET framework through Windows in C#. Programming in .NET is more complex, and taking advantage of the 32-bit multi-threading capabilities proved difficult. Ultimately, the Ruggeduino, a more durable version of the Arduino, was chosen for its open-source architecture, programming simplicity, and the availability of pre-configured and coded motor shields. Furthermore, Hribernik et al. [5-1] concur that the Arduino platform is an excellent method for quickly and easily prototyping quite complex intelligent products.

The drive spring on the insertion assembly required very precise position control, and it was ideal to keep all of the sensors external to the body, so an open-loop control strategy was a reasonable logic configuration. For this control, a 200-step optical encoder was selected, in conjunction with a 200-step NEMA 17 high-torque stepper motor (Anaheim Automation), to operate the drive spring. A stepper motor is ideal for making incremental movements without requiring external sensors to monitor the rotation. The optical encoder was selected to act as a redundant measure for maintaining an accurate reading of the angular position. Matching the step count between the optical encoder and the stepper motor is important for the open-loop system control. To drive the stepper motor, the Adafruit motor shield was selected, shown in Figure 5-2. The shield is equipped with a dual H-bridge configuration, which is ideal for driving a number of different types of motors. Additionally, there were several open-source libraries in the Arduino programming GUI that allowed for easy programming of the shield.

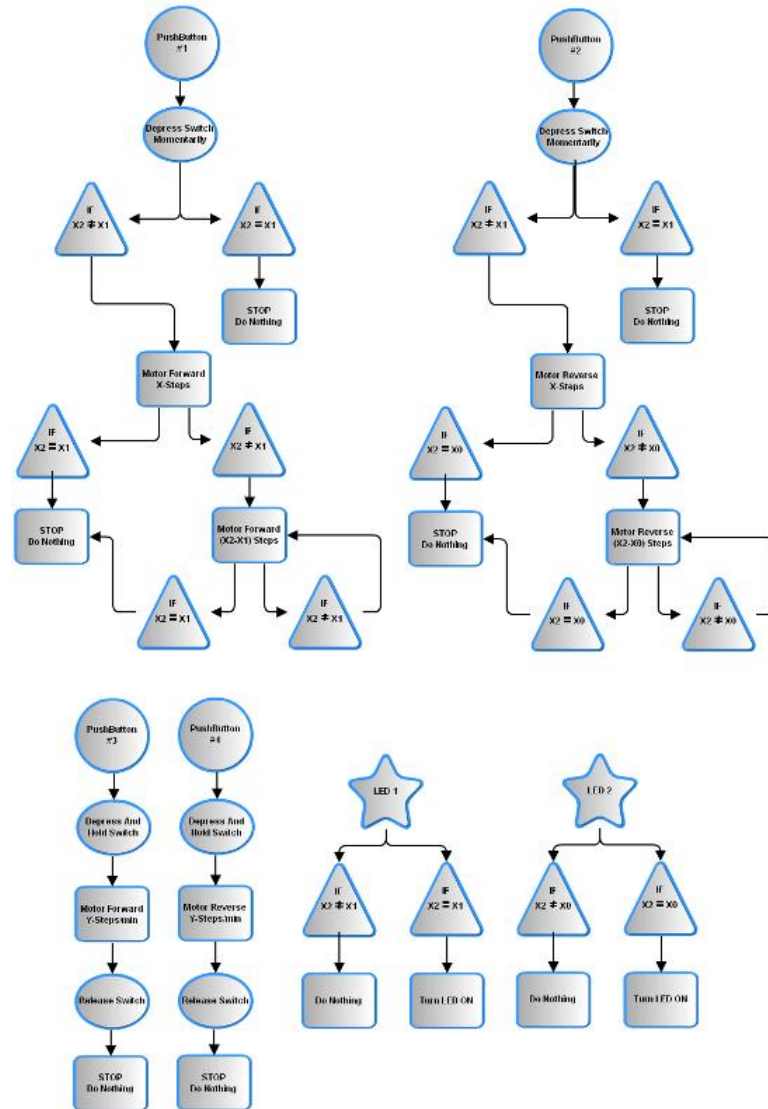


**Figure 5-2:** Adafruit motor shield

The stepper is single stepped, giving it a  $1.8^\circ$  incremental step angle. This step angle coupled with the 1.2 coils/cm drive spring yields a small linear step size of 0.05 millimeters. This step size allows for fine linear placement of the material interface.

## 5.2 Interface & Open-Loop Control

An open-loop control strategy is implemented for maintaining the simplicity and durability of the Material Handling System. The control strategy, shown in Figure 5-3, enables the system to be operated in either automatic or manual jog mode.



**Figure 5-3:** Open-loop control schematic

The control interface has four buttons, retract automatic, insert automatic, retract manual and insert manual. Both operational modes utilize LEDs to indicate whether the shuttle is fully inserted or fully retracted (Figure 5-4).





**Figure 5-4:** MHS control interface

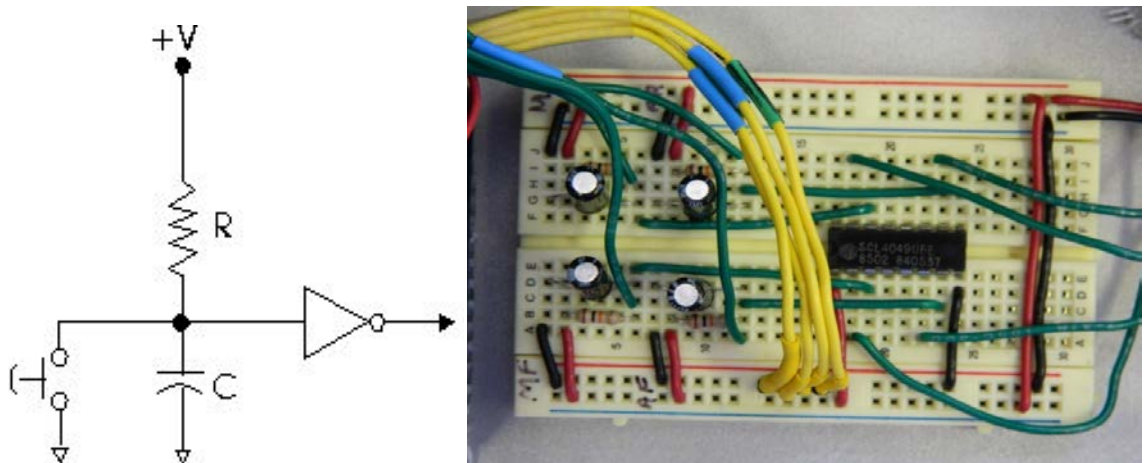
When placed in automatic mode, the shuttle traverses the entire length of the overtube. The microcontroller sets the number of step impulses to the drive motor, corresponding to the overtube length, and monitors the position of the shuttle by counting lines from the optical encoder. If the number of motor pulses matches the encoder reading, the shuttle has traveled the appropriate distance. The main downside to a stepper motor is that if the maximum rated torque is exceeded, then slipping can occur, thus losing the index for true position. If the overtube is twisted or obstructed such that the motor slips, the encoder does not match the number of motor steps. The microcontroller automatically calculates the remaining travel distance and sends that number of step commands to the motor. The system also has soft stops built into the operation code to prevent the shuttle from crashing into either hard stop at the ends of the overtube. When either soft stop is reached, an indicator illuminates, alerting the operator of the shuttle position. If the shuttle were to reach a hard stop, the drive spring would bind and cause the motor to slip, but no component failure would occur.

Depressing the manual button moves the shuttle until the button is released, or until a soft stop is reached. The system can be placed in automatic mode even after being

manually operated; the microcontroller automatically adjusts the number of automatic step commands based on the shuttle's current position.

### 5.3 Other Hardware

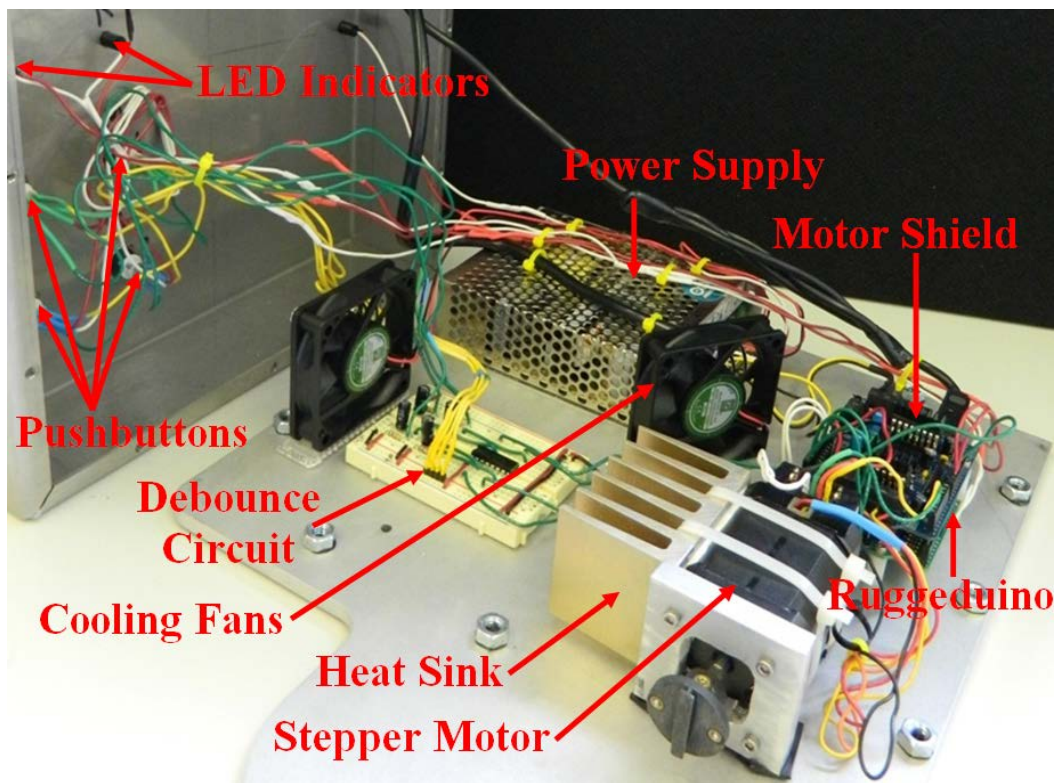
There are a few other components included in the design of the control interface that are worthy of brief discussion. The system utilizes a 75W dual power supply. The Ruggeduino, Adafruit motor shield and stepper motor utilize a 24V supply, and the LEDs and momentary contact pushbuttons utilize a 5V supply. Once testing commenced, switch bounce, a common issue with momentary contact pushbuttons, was apparent. Essentially the contacts within the button do not maintain contact upon initial depression, and as a result, so-called phantom signals were causing the MHS to cycle unintentionally. To correct the issue, an RC circuit with an inverter, specifically designed as a switch debouncer, was implemented and is shown in Figure 5-5.



**Figure 5-5:** Debounce circuit diagram (left), implemented circuit (right)



The other issue that developed during testing was heat build-up on the motor. The stepper motor was wired to use its maximum allowable power level to optimize torque levels. Additionally, when the MHS is idle, the motor is set in full-lock mode, which essentially sends full power to all of the motor poles. To remedy this heat, a large heat sink was attached to the motor, and two quiet, high velocity computer fans were also placed within the electronics panel. The fully assembled electronics package is shown in Figure 5-6.

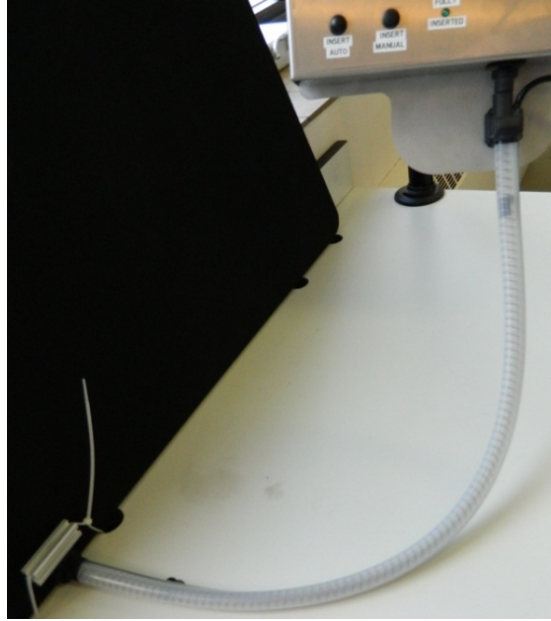


**Figure 5-6:** Completely wired electronics package

## **Chapter 6: Bench-Top Testing**

### **6.1 Reliability**

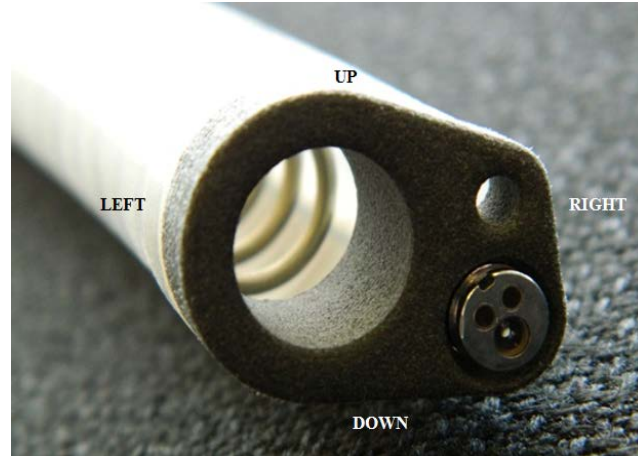
The complete system has been subjected to a number of tests to quantify satisfaction of functional requirements. Primary success of all tests is based on visual verification that the shuttle can navigate the length of the overtube in both directions. The first test is a repeatability test, in which the system was subjected to a 12.7 cm bend radius and an axial twist of 180° (Figure 6-1). These parameters were chosen as an approximation to the type of compound flexure that may be encountered during a transgastric insertion. The system was repeatedly cycled in automatic mode and visually inspected to verify successful movement and final placement of the shuttle in the overtube. The operation was also timed, and the position of the shuttle relative to the retention cap and to the insufflation cap was measured. Across 20 samples, the time of travel was  $55.8 \pm 0.2$  seconds in both directions, yielding an average speed of 1.8 cm/second. The distance from both caps was measured with the heel of a dial caliper, and was within  $1 \pm 0.15$  mm across the sample set.



**Figure 6-1:** Repeatability test: 12.7 cm bend radius, 180° axial twist test

## **6.2 Maxima: Bend Radius & Axial Twist**

The next tests performed included finding the maximum allowable bend radius and axial twist of the system, without the drive spring binding, which would cause the stepper motor to slip. Allowable bend radius was variable depending on the direction of bend, as the wall thickness of the overtube is not uniform in all directions relative to the material interface lumen. The bend radius was applied manually at the midpoint of the overtube length. A radius of  $7.5 \pm 0.63$  cm was attainable in the upward, downward and left directions, and a radius of  $12.7 \pm 0.63$  cm was attainable in the right direction (Figure 6-2).



**Figure 6-2:** Bend radius orientations

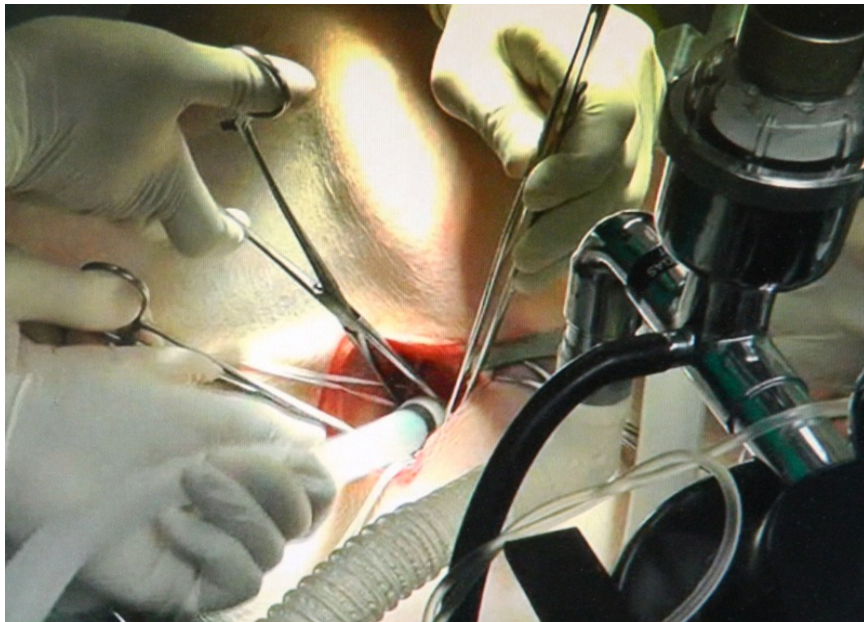
To obtain the maximum axial twist of the insertion assembly, the distribution cap was attached to the magnetic mounting pad normally, and then the inserted retention cap was rotated. An axial twist over the entire length of the overtube exceeding  $360^\circ$  allowed for successful system operation. Greater axial twist values may have been acceptable, but the torque required to displace the tube beyond that value caused the magnetic attachment to become uncoupled, rendering the tests infeasible.

When the system was pushed beyond its maximum limits, the spring did bind, and caused the motor to slip. Once the system was placed back within its operating bounds, the microcontroller was still able to adjust the travel distance appropriately and deliver the payload to the appropriate soft stop with the same accuracy found during the repeatability test.

## Chapter 7: Porcine Testing

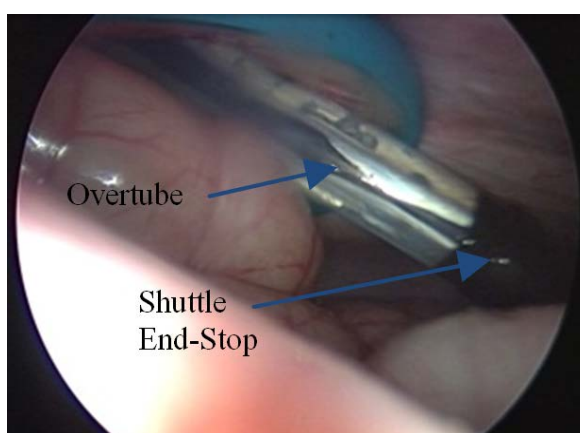
### 7.1 First Procedure

As part of the functional verification of the MHS, *in vivo* testing on a non-survival porcine model was performed. The goal of the procedure was to insert the device transgastrically and operate the system as designed, thus validating device functionality in a harsh environment. The anatomy of a pig esophagus is prohibitively small at the entry point, both in diameter and bend radius. To avoid this restriction, an incision was made in the neck, just below the natural bend of the esophagus, shown in Figure 7-1. During the attempt to perform insertion of the device, some excessive tearing of the tissue occurred, making the transgastric insertion impossible. This tearing can be attributed to the smaller overall diameter of the pig esophagus compared to the average human esophagus. As the MHS is designed for the anatomy of a human, this outcome, although not desirable, is acceptable.



**Figure 7-1:** Transgastric insertion attempt

As an alternative to the natural orifice insertion, the MHS can be inserted through an external incision in the abdominal cavity. The porcine model was insufflated with two 12mm trocars, and an additional 50mm gel port was inserted at the abdominal midline of the animal. After the unsuccessful attempt to enter transgastrically, the system was instead inserted into the insufflated peritoneal cavity via the gel port. Approximately 45% of the 1 meter long overtube assembly was introduced to the harsh environment of the abdomen (Figure 7-2).



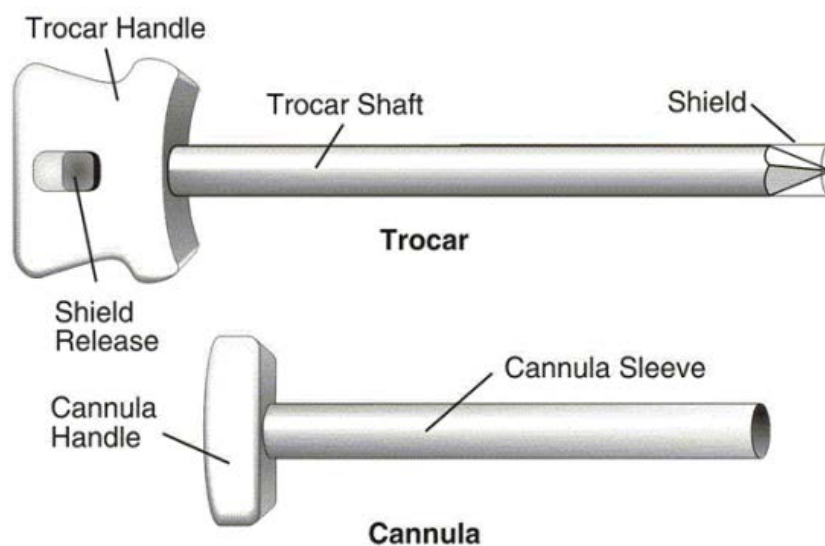
**Figure 7-2:** System inserted *in vivo* via gel port

Once inserted, the system was operated in automatic mode, cycling the system multiple times from fully retracted to fully inserted. Additionally, a surgical staple was placed within the spring grasper while the shuttle traversed the overtube, and was held securely. Both with and without a payload, the MHS cycled properly, even under some unusual bend angles induced by the gel port location. It was determined by visual inspection that the shuttle was delivered to the appropriate soft stops after each cycle. These results confirm that even in the wet and sticky abdominal cavity, the Material Handling System is a robust device.

## 7.2 Improvements & Second Procedure

### 7.2.1 Insertion Trocar

The first procedure elucidated two deficiencies in the MHS: the lack of a proper insufflation seal, and the lack of a robust way of gaining natural orifice access in a porcine model. Although the system is designed for a human, all medical devices must be tested and validated *in vivo* before gaining approval for human testing. An oversized trocar was designed to allow natural orifice insertion via a transvaginal approach. The trocar is designed to mimic other production trocars, such as the ones described by Fuller et al. [7-1], and shown in Figure 7-3.

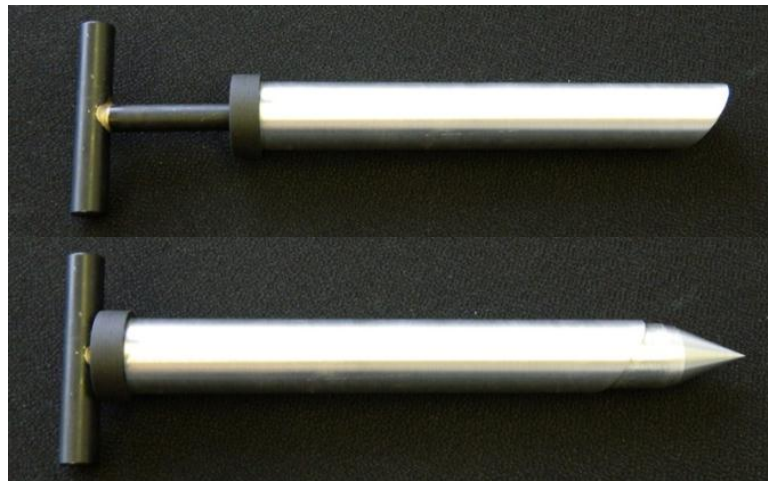


**Figure 7-3:** A typical trocar configuration, listed by the FDA [7-1]

The MHS trocar is composed of a 1.125 inch (28.6mm) diameter cannula sleeve, through which the piercing trocar passes. The entire retracted assembly passes transvaginally and when located appropriately near the interior abdominal wall, the piercing tip can be extended, puncturing an appropriate size hole such that the cannula



sleeve can be advanced. The retracted and extended trocar configurations can be seen in Figure 7-4.



**Figure 7-4:** MHS trocar in the retracted (top) and extended (bottom) configurations

The trocar is equipped with three O-ring insufflation seals to maintain abdominal insufflation during puncture. Once inserted, the piercing trocar is removed from the cannula sleeve, and the overtube insufflation cap is placed over the end of the sleeve. Once lubricated, the MHS overtube can be advanced through the cap and the cannula sleeve into the abdominal cavity. The tight fit and lubrication between the cap and overtube will maintain insufflation within the abdomen. A diagram of all critical components can be seen in Figure 7-5.





**Figure 7-5: MHS trocar components**

### **7.2.2 Second Procedure**

With the addition of the trocar, natural orifice insertion proved to be a rather simple approach. During the second procedure, the trocar was inserted transvaginally, with the piercing tip initially retracted. Once the trocar was fully inserted into the vagina, the piercing handle was advanced, and the tip passed easily through the vaginal wall and into the insufflated abdominal cavity, shown in Figure 7-6. At this point, insufflation was fully maintained without any noticeable loss in pressure. The piercing assembly was then removed from the cannula sleeve, shown in Figure 7-7, at which point insufflation was lost.

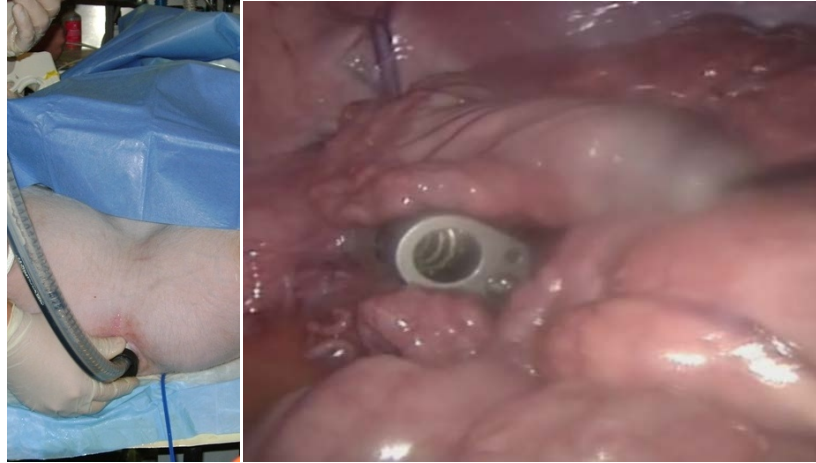


**Figure 7-6:** Transvaginal trocar insertion: exterior (left), interior (right)



**Figure 7-7:** Trocar piercing assembly removed from cannula

The MHS was then inserted into the insufflation cap on the cannula sleeve and passed freely into the abdominal cavity, as shown in Figure 7-8. At this point, all of the insufflation seals, both at the trocar cap and throughout the MHS insertion assembly, worked as designed. A lifted abdominal wall is a clear indication of a proper insufflation seal, which is shown in Figure 7-9.



**Figure 7-8:** Insertion of MHS into trocar cannula: exterior (left), interior (right)



**Figure 7-9:** Raised abdominal wall with inserted MHS, indicating proper insufflation

The system was then actuated in automatic mode, advancing the shuttle through the trocar and into the abdominal cavity. As with the previous procedure, proper operation of the device is indicated with the delivery of the shuttle to the end of the MHS overtube. The shuttle was dyed blue for this procedure for clear indication, and can be seen in Figure 7-10.



**Figure 7-10:** Fully inserted shuttle, dyed blue for proper visualization

The system functioned flawlessly as intended, both in automatic insert, and automatic retract modes, delivering the shuttle to the appropriate soft stops in each direction. This result was particularly impressive, as the bend of the tubing at the entry point of the trocar induced a large bend curvature, even causing some local ripple of the tubing. The robustness of the system was also confirmed as during the procedure, the bladder was inadvertently punctured, causing a large amount of urine to flow in and around the MHS. Regardless of this liquid, the entire system functioned properly. This procedure serves as a solid demonstration that the MHS is a reliable, robust, accurate system that can function during a multitude of abdominal procedures, and can be successfully inserted through a natural orifice.

## **Chapter 8: FE Analysis of Silicone Tubing Under Bending**

The silicone overtube comprises a large and very important portion of the design of the Material Handling System. As a continuation of the Material Handling System study, more investigation into the behavior of silicone tubing was desired. Determining the behavior of a silicone tube under bending can further improve the knowledge base for designing proper clearances to allow for correct operation of medical devices which make use of overtubes.

### **8.1 Material Testing**

Structural silicone, specifically the medical grade NuSil MED 4080 silicone used in the Material Handling System overtube, can be a very difficult material to model. Any hyper-elastic materials with a high Poisson's ratio, such as many rubbers, have a complex response to loading, as a great deal of thickening/thinning can occur in the elastic range. Before any modeling could take place, material testing needed to be performed to ensure properties used in the simulation were accurate.

The FE material model selected and discussed in the following section requires the shear modulus, density and Poisson's ratio. The density and Poisson's ratio were provided by the manufacturer as  $1210 \text{ kg/m}^3$  and 0.463, respectively. The shear modulus was not published data, and therefore needed be determined experimentally. Shear modulus can be determined in a number of ways, but two different methods, tensile testing and ultrasonic testing, were utilized for this analysis.

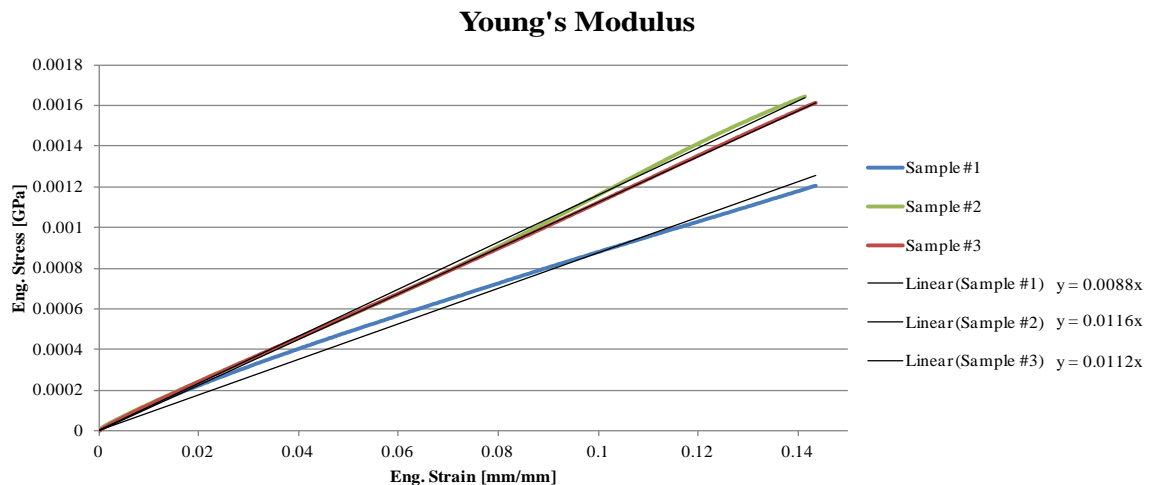
Tensile testing was performed using a BOSE ElectroForce® 3200 uniaxial test instrument with a 225N load cell (Figure 8-1). The system was calibrated, unloaded, using a built-in feature which varies the amplitude and frequency of a sine wave pulse.

Once calibrated, three 45mm long, 13mm wide samples were loaded into the gripping jaws and stretched at a linear rate of 1mm/second to 6.5mm, a strain of 14.4%. It should be noted that there was some minor hysteresis exhibited by the silicone as it was relaxed back to its initial length; however, that hysteresis is not applied to the FE material model.



**Figure 8-1:** Bose 3200 ElectroForce® test instrument [8-1]

To determine the shear modulus of the material from the load-displacement data provided by the Bose machine, Young's modulus must first be found; this is the slope of the line fit to the engineering stress/strain curve (Figure 8-2).



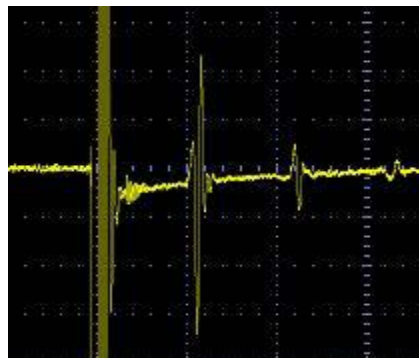
**Figure 8-2:** Young's modulus: engineering stress vs. strain

An average Young's modulus of 10.5MPa was found. Knowing the Poisson's ratio ( $\mu$ ) and the elastic modulus (E), the shear modulus (G) can then be found (Eq. 8-1) [8-2]. An average shear modulus of 3.6MPa was found. According to published literature, this value is reasonably similar to previously tested structural silicones [8-3].

$$G = \frac{E}{2(1 + \mu)} \quad (8.1)$$

As the shear modulus is not being directly measured, a secondary method of approximating the value is appropriate for validation. Ultrasonic testing is a widely accepted method for determining the elastic and shear moduli of materials [8-4]. All materials have an associated sound speed in both the longitudinal and shear directions which are directly related to the elastic and shear moduli, respectively. A common issue for materials with a very high Poisson's ratio, such as structural silicones, is that the sound speed of a shear wave is difficult to ascertain.

For the purpose of testing the MED 4080 silicone, a 5 MHz longitudinal acoustic transducer was used to measure the sound speed. A Gaussian pulse is transmitted through the material, and then reflected back to the transducer. The initial waveform and two reflected waves were observed on a high resolution oscilloscope (Figure 8-3).



**Figure 8-3:** Longitudinal wave transmission and reflections (2 $\mu$ s divisions)

The sound speed of the material was obtained by measuring the time between peaks of the reflected waveforms. The travel distance of the wave (twice the material thickness) was divided by this peak-to-peak time, and resulted in an average longitudinal wave speed of 1164 m/s. Folds [5] published sound speed values of 960-1110 m/s for RTV silicones at 0°C. Using thermal correlation coefficients, at room temperature (21°C), the expected sound speed would range from 1023-1173 m/s. Based on this literature, the longitudinal wave speed of this structural silicone is accurate. The correlation between longitudinal and shear wave speed is relatively straightforward (Eq. 8.2-8.4). Sample calculations are carried out in the Appendix. The shear wave speed of the silicone rubber is 305 m/s, resulting in a shear modulus of 113MPa. This result is contrary to the previous tensile testing results and contrary to published data [8-3]. This unexpected result may be due to the high level of internal damping in the silicone. When testing the shear wave speed of a material such as steel, the sample is usually backed with a silicone rubber sheet, which is used to damp out any undesirable noise, or secondary reflections. This high damping may have caused the primary wave reflection to damp out or slow down on its way back to the transducer. This delay in transmission could be the error seen in the shear modulus.

$$c_L^2 = \frac{\lambda + 2G}{\rho} \quad (8.2)$$

$$\mu = \frac{\lambda}{2(\lambda + G)} \quad (8.3)$$

$$c_S^2 = \frac{G}{\rho} \quad (8.4)$$

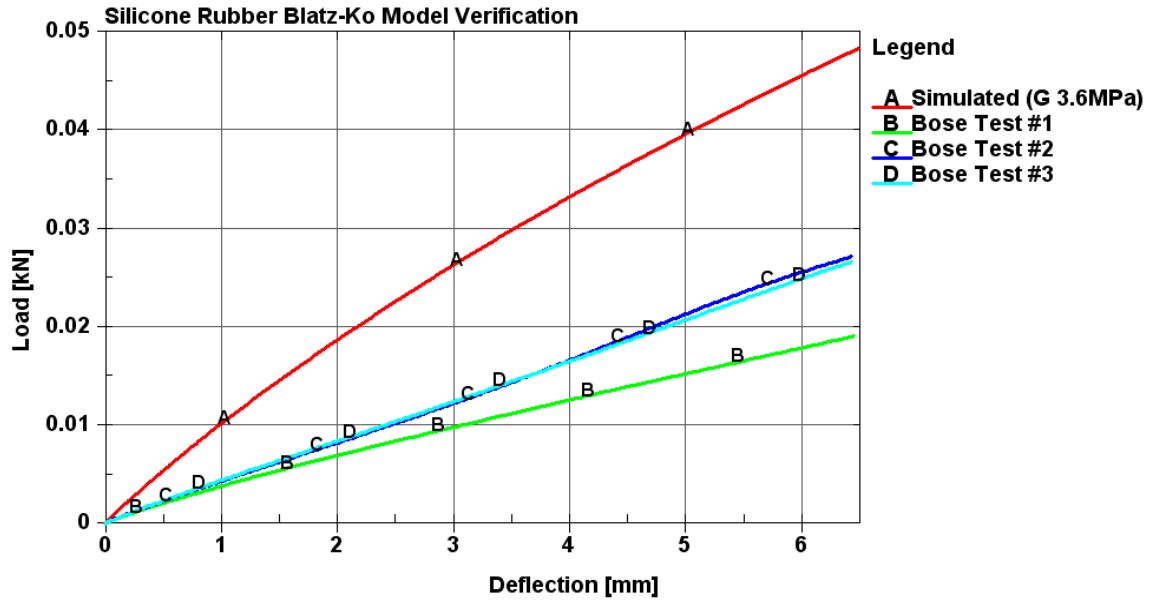


Despite that the ultrasonic sound speed tests seem to have provided an inaccurate result, FE simulation can go on with confidence, as the tensile testing resulted in comparable values to those published in literature.

## **8.2 Material Model Verification**

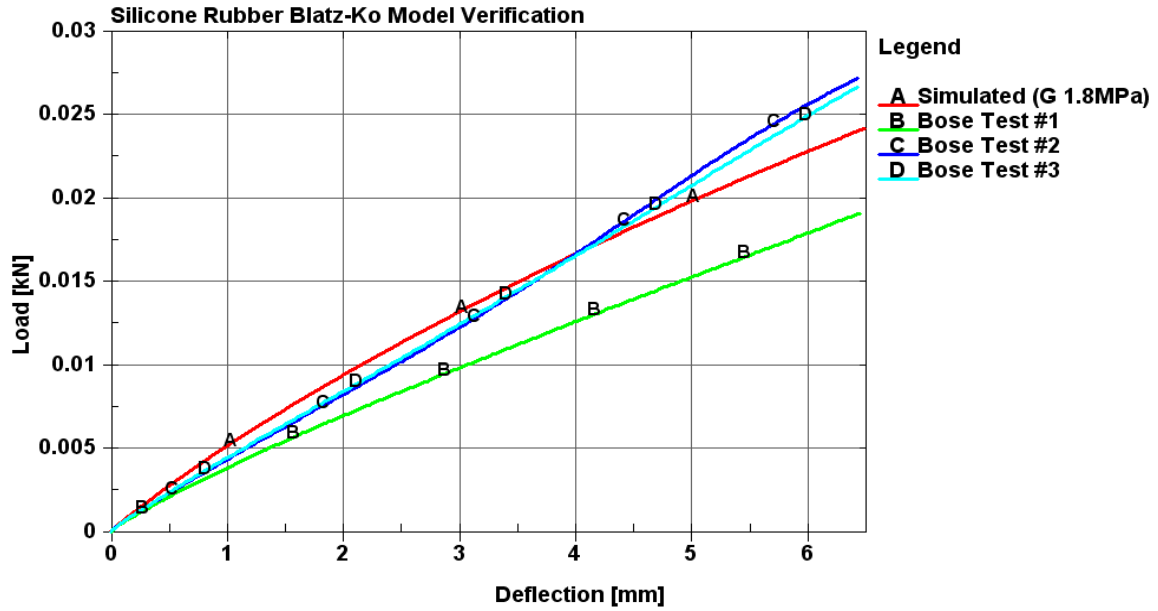
The use of computer simulation to model the behavior of silicone is a difficult problem, and has been addressed in some detail previously [8-6]. A finite element engine, LS-Dyna, was utilized for the analysis of the MED 4080 silicone rubber. The previous literature suggests that using a one-parameter rubber model, namely the Blatz-Ko model, provides good physical correlation of the structural silicone, especially when strain levels exceed 20%. The Blatz-Ko material model assumes that the Poisson's ratio of the material being analyzed is 0.463 and is intended for modeling nearly incompressible continuum rubber [8-7]. The parameters that need to be specified are the mass density and the shear modulus, both of which are now known.

To verify that the simulation is performing as intended, a single element pull test study has been conducted. In this study, a single shell element is loaded uni-axially, just like the tensile tests conducted in the previous section. The Blatz-Ko material model was used, with the default Belytschko-Tsay shell element formulation. The results of the simulated pull test were plotted against those conducted on the BOSE machine, and can be seen in Figure 8-4.



**Figure 8-4:** Single element pull test load vs. deflection comparison

The results of the simulation have the same loading/deflection trend; however, the loading is approximately double that of the experimental data. This difference most likely can be attributed to the assumed Poisson's ratio, as that is not a variable that can be changed in the 1-D material model. A secondary model was constructed that basically "guessed" at a different value for the shear modulus that would achieve a load displacement curve more similar to that seen in the BOSE tests. A final value of 1.8MPa, approximately half that of the measured value, achieved an appropriate load curve, shown in Figure 8-5.



**Figure 8-5:** Modified shear modulus load/deflection curve comparison

At small local deflections, the load-deflection curve using the original shear modulus is an acceptable approximation of true behavior. As a relatively fine mesh has been selected for the actual FE simulation, large local deflections will not be present, and therefore it was decided to utilize the measured shear modulus of 3.6MPa.

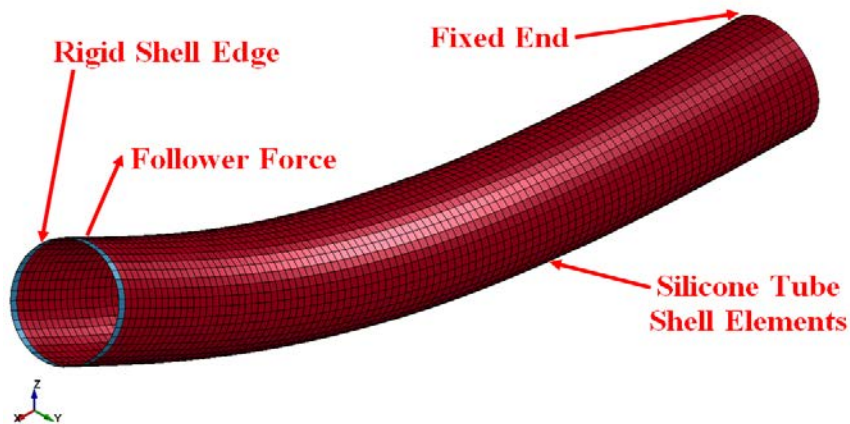
### 8.3 Finite Element Simulation

The aim of this FE analysis is to develop a correlation between the change in internal dimensions of a cylindrical silicone tube and a given bend radius. The two primary dimensions of a tubing are its inside diameter and the wall thickness. The FE model is a dual-parameter study, consisting of five different inside diameters, and four different wall thicknesses, yielding a study size of 20 different arrangements. A summary of all the different parameters can be seen in Table 8-1.

**Table 8-1:** Parameter combinations for the silicone rubber FE study

Diameter	T <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>2</sub>	T <sub>3</sub>	T <sub>4</sub>
[mm]	[mm]	[mm]	[mm]	[mm]
13	0.5	1	1.5	2
16	0.5	1	1.5	2
19	0.5	1	1.5	2
22	0.5	1	1.5	2
25	0.5	1	1.5	2

All of the different simulations are set up like a traditional fixed-end cantilever beam problem, have a tubing length of 100mm. The bending of the tube occurs in the XZ-plane with the application of a follower force perpendicular to the free end of the beam. The force was varied for each of the different thicknesses so that some form of failure (i.e., kinking or collapse) was apparent. The simulation structure is shown in Figure 8-6.

**Figure 8-6:** Shell element silicone tubing model

The model is constructed of Belytschko-Tsay shell elements with three integration points through the cross section. The element size of 1mm x 1mm is consistent for all 20 models. The silicone tubing is made of Blatz-Ko rubber, and the free end of the tube has a ring of rigid elements. The follower force is applied to the rigid ring to more evenly distribute the loading. The row of nodes closest to the fixed end is constrained such that

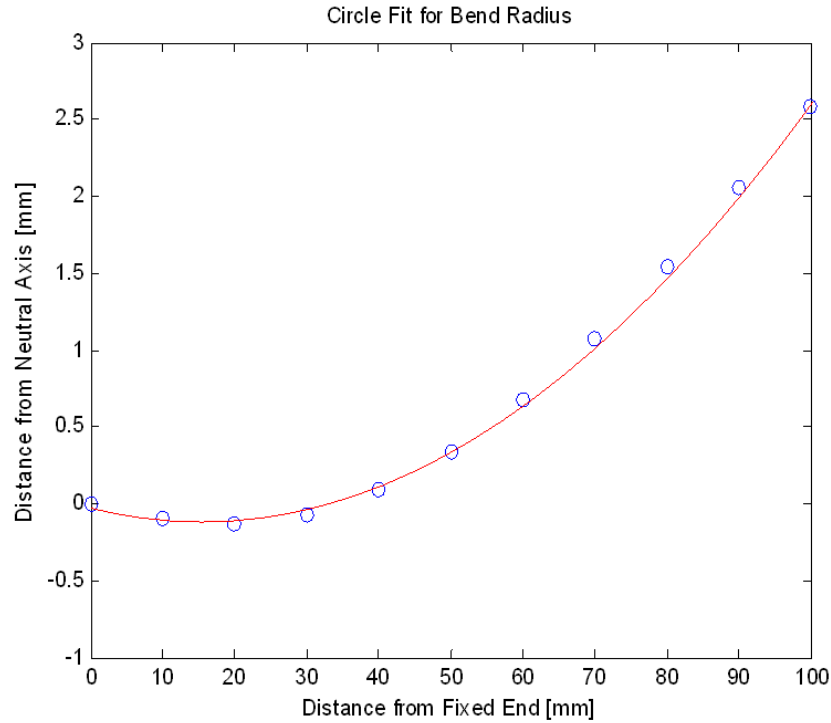
the nodes are not allowed to translate or rotate in any direction. The simulation takes place over a period of 10ms. The point of greatest interest on the tubing is wherever the largest change in dimensions occurs (i.e., the failure point). This location was determined visually on each of the 20 models by running a preliminary simulation, and representative nodes were selected for tracking during the final simulation.

### 8.3.1 Bend Radius Evaluation

Initially, the bend radius of the cantilever tubing could not be determined directly from the simulation. Using the Euler-Bernoulli beam theory [8-8], a relationship between the bending moment and beam curvature exists for long isotropic beams. The curvature of the beam,  $\kappa$ , can be calculated using the first and second derivatives of the beam deflection at any given point,  $x$ .

$$\kappa = \frac{\frac{P}{EI}(L-x)}{\left[1 + \left[\frac{Px}{2EI}(2L-x)\right]^2\right]^{3/2}} \quad (8-5)$$

Although a good approximation, the function does not provide an accurate representation of curvature for hyper-elastic materials, such as silicone rubber. The alternate, more accurate solution can be obtained using Elliptic Integrals [8-8], but due to the iterative numerical solution requirements, a more direct method of measuring the bend radius is desirable. During the simulation, there were ten nodes spaced evenly along the tubing, at its longitudinal neutral axis, whose positions were tracked. Using this position information, a post-processing script was written such that a circle was fit to the effective arc created by the bending tubing. The circle was fit at every time-step, such that a direct correlation could now be constructed between bend radius and the changing dimensions of the tubing. An example of this circle fit is shown in Figure 8-7.



**Figure 8-7:** Example of the circle-fit function through points on the neutral axis

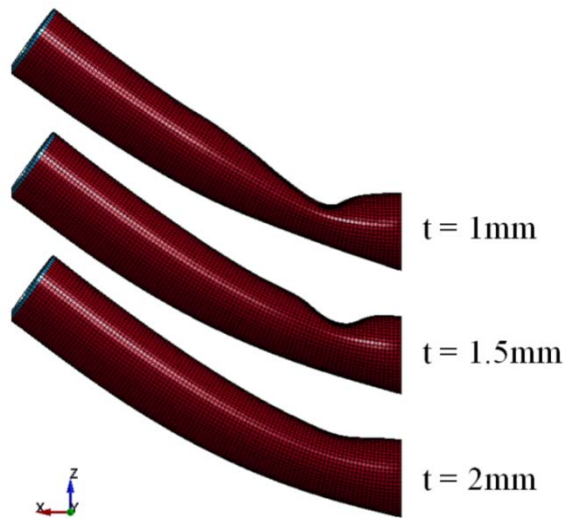
## 8.4 Results

Each of the 20 trials used one massively parallel processor (MPP), and all executed in approximately 30 seconds. The original approach of this study was to develop a relationship for the change in the internal tubing dimensions based on the tubing thickness, tubing diameter and bend radius. This approach was based on the assumption that all of the tubing would bend at a single cross-section. After examining the output of all twenty trials, there were actually three different bending modes, a ripple, a single kink and a total tubing collapse, as shown in Figure 8-8.



**Figure 8-8:** Tubing bending modes: ripple, a single kink and total collapse (left to right)

Also, when the tubing did kink in a single location, the location along the length of the tubing changed as tubing thickness changed, up to a threshold. The location of kink moves asymptotically towards the fixed end as thickness is increased, as shown in Figure 8-9.



**Figure 8-9:** Kink point moving asymptotically toward the fixed end

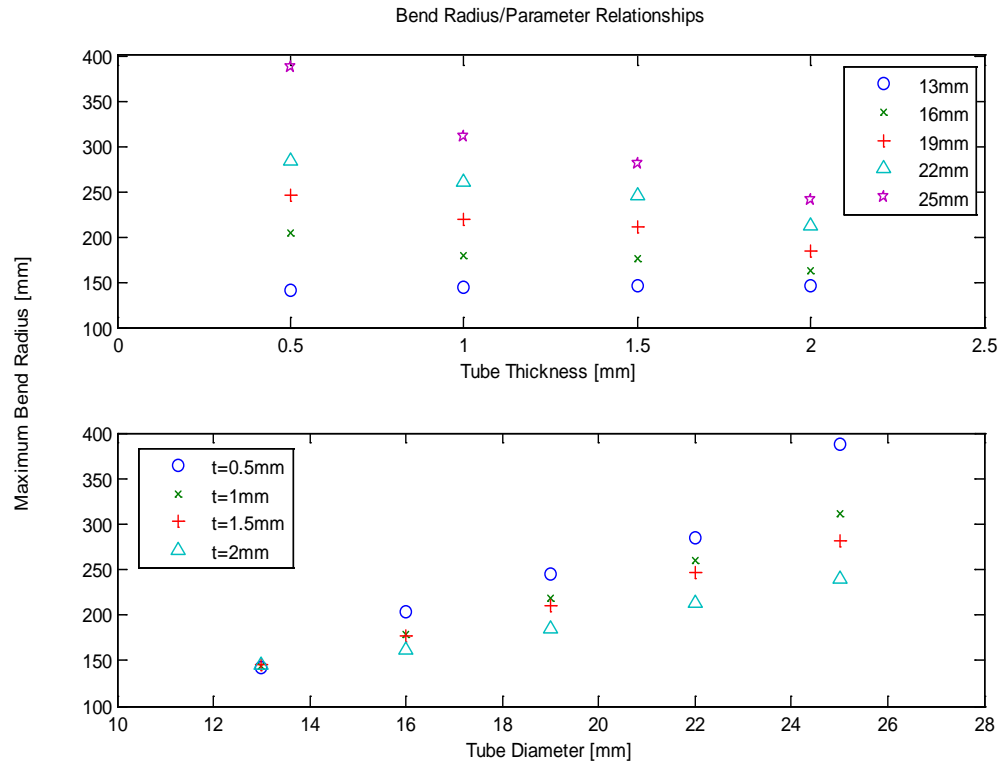
As there are so many different modes of bending and kinking locations, this analysis will focus on the development of general guidelines for how a given tubing thickness and diameter will behave under bending especially right before failure (i.e., kinking), rather than on the development of analytical expressions for the behavior. Table 8-2 summarizes the bending mode(s) and failure point bend radii for all of the simulated models.

**Table 8-2:** Bending mode behavior for all models

T = 0.5 mm	Max Bend Radius	Ripple	Kink	Collapse
Ø13	141.62	N	N	Y
Ø16	203.81	Y	N	Y
Ø19	245.3	Y	N	Y
Ø22	284.72	Y	Y	N
Ø25	387.93	Y	Y	N
T = 1.0 mm	Max Bend Radius	Ripple	Kink	Collapse
Ø13	143.47	N	Y	N
Ø16	179.06	N	Y	N
Ø19	219.07	N	Y	N
Ø22	260.76	Y	Y	Y
Ø25	311.49	Y	Y	Y
T = 1.5 mm	Max Bend Radius	Ripple	Kink	Collapse
Ø13	145.15	N	Y	N
Ø16	176.38	N	Y	N
Ø19	210.2	N	Y	N
Ø22	245.93	N	Y	N
Ø25	281.65	N	Y	N
T = 2.0 mm	Max Bend Radius	Ripple	Kink	Collapse
Ø13	146.01	N	Y	N
Ø16	162.58	N	Y	N
Ø19	184.6	N	Y	N
Ø22	212.81	N	Y	N
Ø25	240.35	N	Y	N

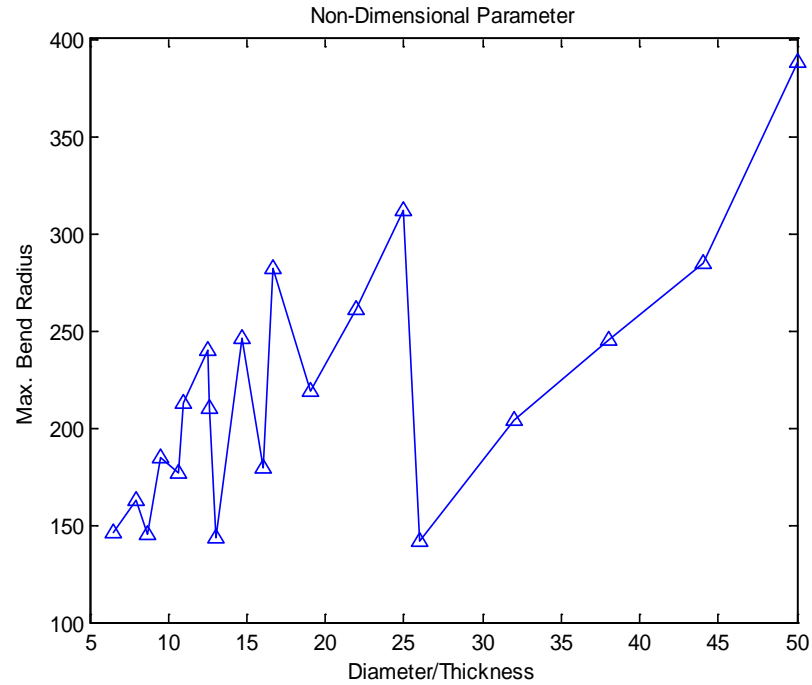
Looking first at the maximum bend radius of the tubing before failure, some trends become apparent. The maximum bend radius (MBR) increases in the form of a power series as the tubing diameter increases. The MBR also increases in the same fashion as wall thickness decreases. Both of these trends can be seen in Figure 8-10.





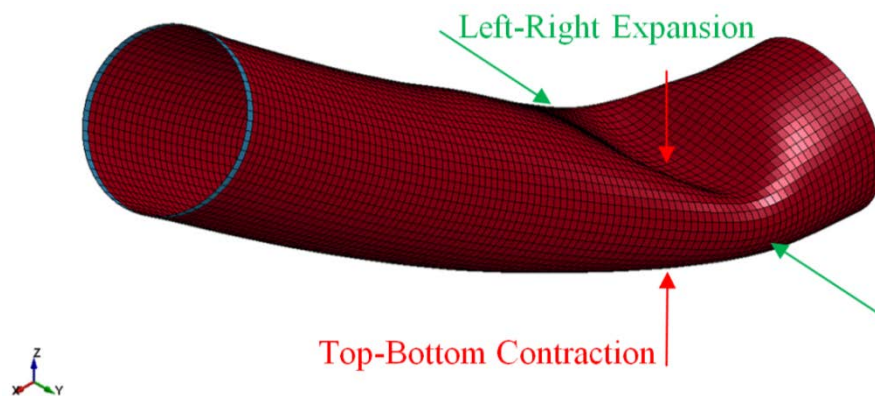
**Figure 8-10: Bend radius/parameter relationships**

As these trends seem to be inverse of one another, non-dimensionalizing the tubing length with respect to the tubing thickness (i.e., diameter/thickness) could potentially create a linear relationship. As shown in Figure 8-11, this is not the case. The MBR is therefore a function of thickness and diameter, both of which are independent variables.



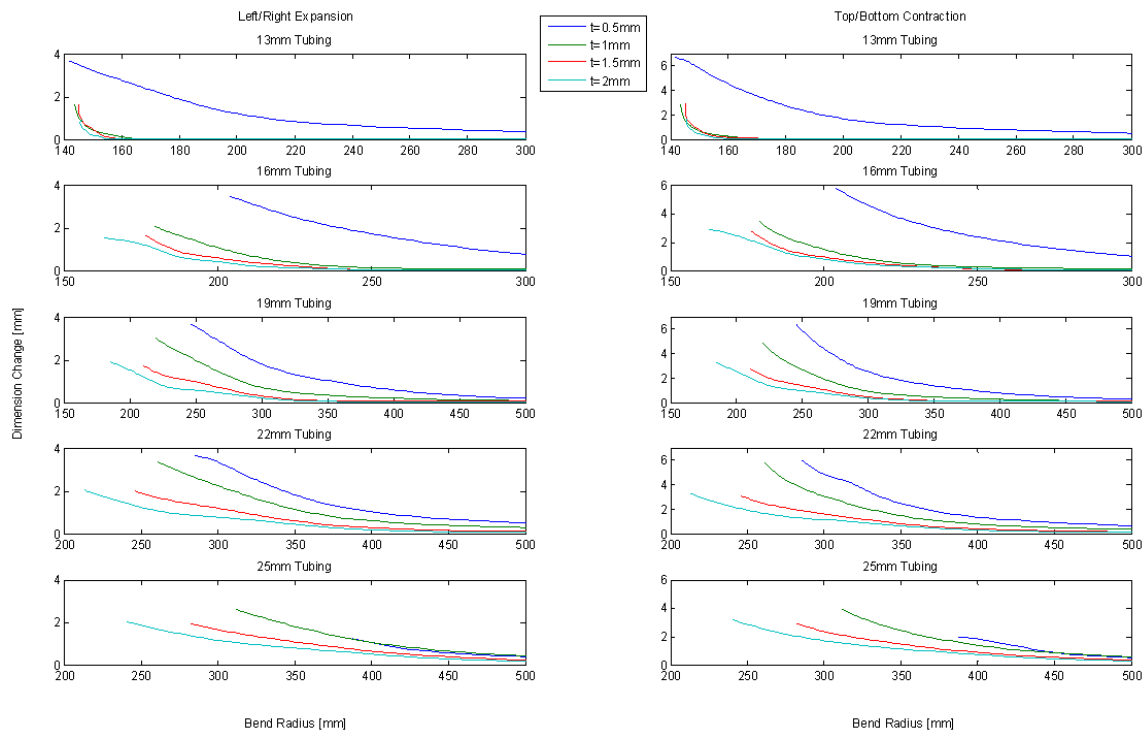
**Figure 8-11:** Bend radius as a function of non-dimensional diameter/thickness

There is considerable tubing deformation before failure occurs for all twenty models. To analyze the dimensional changes instantaneously, four different points were tracked, representing the dimensional change in two directions, shown in Figure 8-12. The top/bottom contraction is the section of tubing that collapses during bending, and the left/right expansion represents the section of tubing that expands during bending. Both of these displacements are in the same plane through the tubing.



**Figure 8-12:** Illustration of the dimension change in the plane cross section

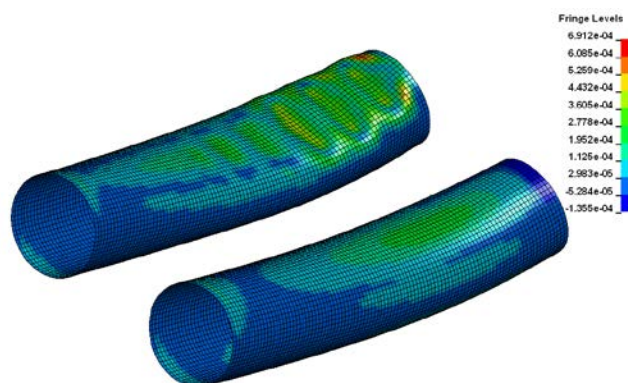
The difference between the left and right points, and the top and bottom points were taken, and plotted against bend radius for every timestep of each simulation, shown in Figure 8-13. These data are a powerful tool, as they prescribe the inner dimensions of the tubing at any given bend radius, from un-deflected up to failure. All of the data have a couple of common trends. As the diameter of the tubing increases, the dimensional change at any point increases. As the wall thickness increases, the dimensional change at any point decreases.



**Figure 8-13:** Dimensional Changes with respect to instantaneous bend radius

There also appear to be several asymptotes on the trend behavior. As the tubing approaches smaller diameters, the dimensional difference between different thicknesses decreases. As the tubing approaches smaller thicknesses (e.g., 0.5mm), there is a marked increase in dimensional change when compared to greater thicknesses. This behavior may also be attributed to the different bending modes of the tubing. At thin wall

thicknesses, the mode changes from a single kink to ripple and total tube collapse. The ripple actually adds structural strength to the tubing during bending by distributing the stresses in the tube across a greater area, enabling greater dimensional changes before collapse. A stress distribution comparison can be seen in Figure 8-14.



**Figure 8-14:** Stress distribution comparison between different bending modes

With regard to overtubes in general, this study shows that it may be best to design in the range of diameters and wall thicknesses that seem to exhibit the basic and most common kinking failure behavior. When designing overtubes that have internal supporting structures, such as the MHS, minimizing wall thickness of the overtube may be the best approach. Thin wall tubing seems to exhibit bending behavior that distributes stresses with a ripple failure mode, enabling proper operation of devices within the tubing under a wider range of bending conditions.

The intent of this analysis is to enable designers to make informed decisions when allowing clearances and tolerances for an object passing through a silicone tube. This is directly applicable to many medical devices that utilize silicone overtubes, such as the Material Handling System. This analysis prescribes only basic guidelines for silicone tubing behavior during pure bending and provides a solid basis for additional examination in the future.

## Chapter 9: Conclusion

In NOTES procedures, *in vivo* miniature robots can effectively perform surgical tasks. Coupled with this steerable Material Handling System, these robots are given even more flexibility and capability within the peritoneal cavity. The MHS has been designed with maximum functionality without compromising any of the rigid anatomical constraints, and includes a large degree of flexibility for material transport. The MHS performs as intended based on functional requirements as demonstrated in benchtop and porcine *in vivo* testing. The control method is robust even when pushed beyond the physical constraints of the system. Collectively, the MHS provides a simple, repeatable way for an operator to interface with miniature *in vivo* robots, improving surgical system flexibility while minimizing impact on the duration of an abdominal surgical procedure.

Through the simulation of a number of different silicone tubing parameter configurations, general recommendations about the tubing behavior were prescribed. These recommendations provide design guidelines for designing a silicone rubber overtube, such as the one utilized in the MHS. With some additional analysis, this FE model of silicone rubber could elucidate a direct analytical representation of the behavior of all compliant silicone over tubes.

In addition to the silicone FE model, the focus of future work should be on refining the finite element models of the spring grasper to optimize the admittance and retention characteristics for diverse payloads. Other work also needs to be done to bring all of the plastic components that cannot be easily sterilized up to sanitary regulations. Also, all of the hardware must be configured for FDA compliance, and the software must be reworked to add redundancies and fail-safes so that it also can be in compliance with

the FDA. Once FDA compliance is met, testing on a human (cadaver) model, especially focusing on the natural orifice insertion, must be performed. Once all of these additional steps are performed, the MHS could prove to be an essential component in all NOTES procedures involving miniature *in vivo* robots. These two systems can help make NOTES a more feasible surgical method, eventually replacing MIS procedures as the standard for all abdominal surgical procedures.

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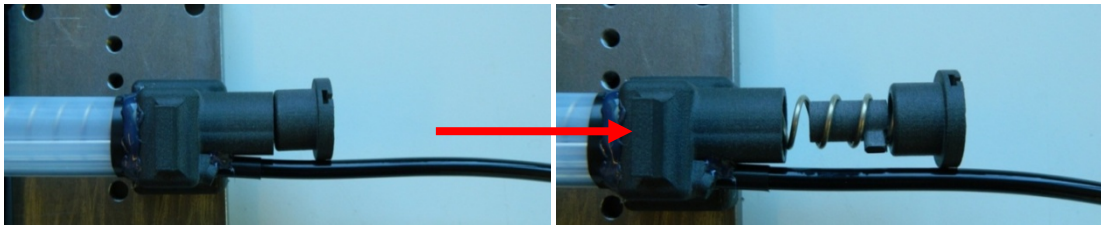
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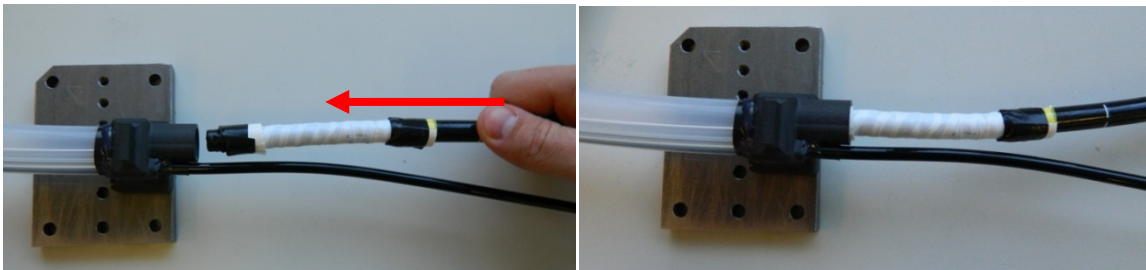
## Appendix

### Appendix A: MHS Insertion w/ Articulated Endoscope

1. Remove the spring assembly from the overtube assembly



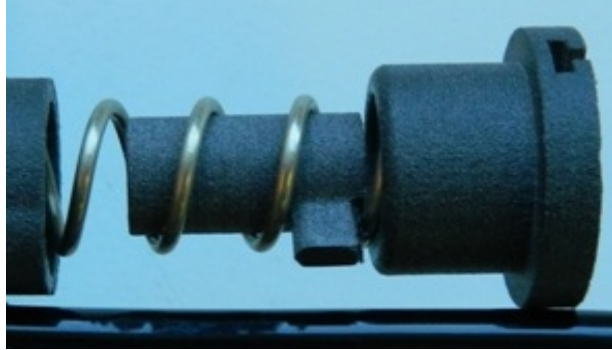
2. Insert an articulated endoscope into the vacated lumen



3. The endoscope should be seated in the overtube cap for best articulation



4. Once fully inserted in the esophagus, remove the endoscope and reinsert the spring assembly. Make sure the shuttle is oriented properly and in the fully retracted position against the coupling.



5. Attach the overtube assembly to the control interface by interlocking the keyed couplings. Make sure the overtube mount is seated on the magnetic attachment pads.

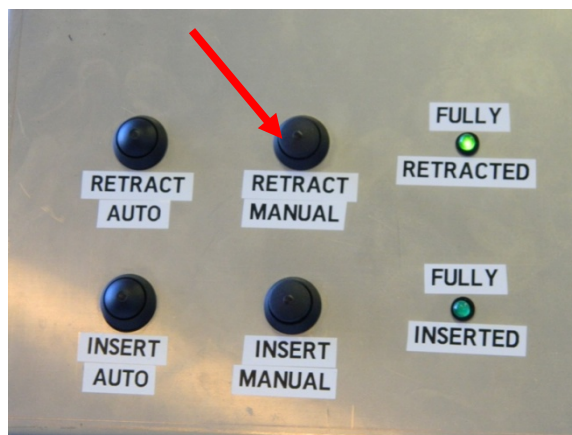


## Appendix B: MHS Start-up Procedure & Control

1. Plug the control interface into any outlet and the *Power LED* and *Fully Retracted* LED will illuminate
2. To calibrate the system, it must be cycled twice before being coupled to the overtube assembly
3. Press the *Insert Auto* button and allow the system to cycle until the *Fully Inserted* LED is illuminated



4. Press the *Retract Auto* button and allow the system to cycle until the *Fully Retracted* LED is illuminated

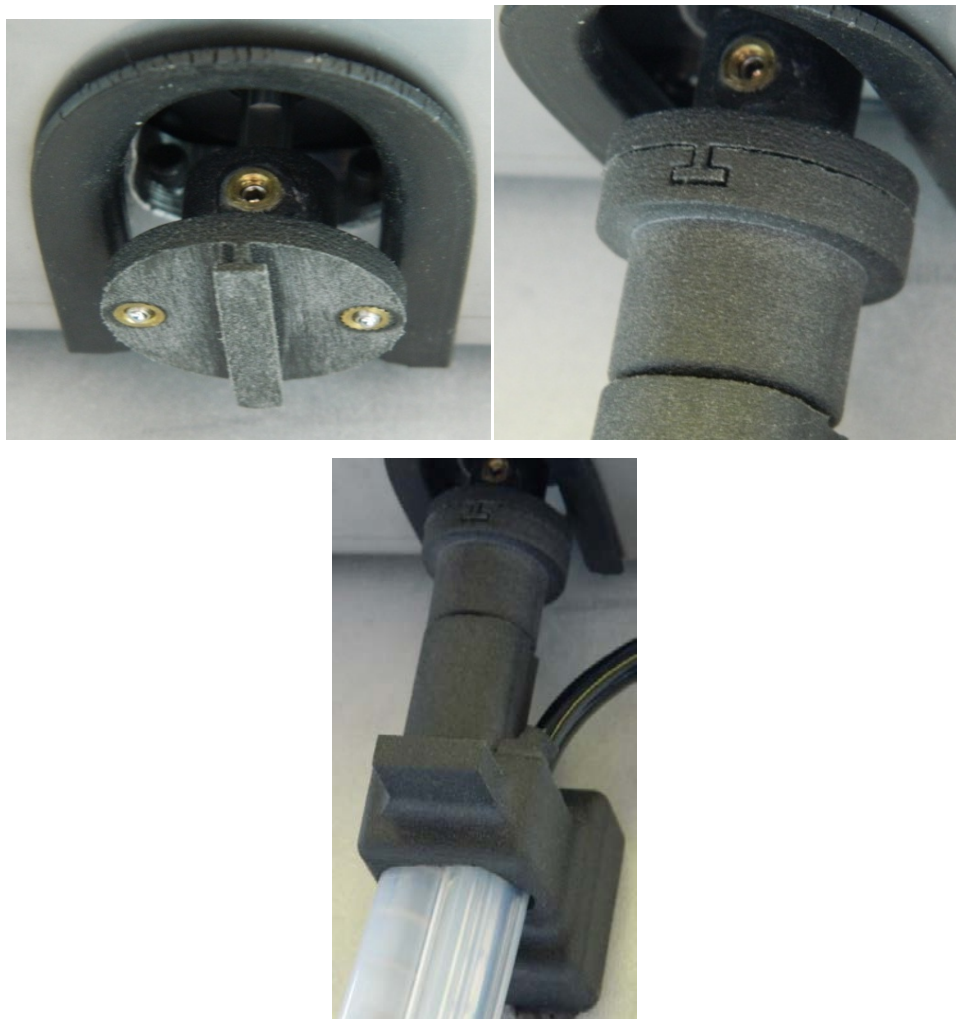




5. Repeat Steps 3-4: the *Fully Retracted* LED should be illuminated



6. Attach the overtube assembly to the control interface by interlocking the keyed couplings. Make sure the overtube mount is seated on the magnetic attachment pads



## Appendix C: Important Datasheets

### C.1 Low-Friction Coating for Silicone Tubing



#### Low Friction & Flexible Replacement for Parylene

Slick Sil<sup>SM</sup> LSR is a translucent matte coating designed to reduce the coefficient of friction (COF) and, hence, the friction force of molded and extruded silicone elastomers. The ability of the Slick Sil<sup>SM</sup> LSR coating system to reduce the surface friction of elastomeric silicone parts enables LIM<sup>®</sup> (liquid silicone rubber), HCR, and RTV materials to be utilized in areas that were previously closed to silicones due to their high inherent COF.

#### Key Features

- Low friction (.31) vs. raw silicone (.65)
- Chemical bond
- Thin film (.0005-.001")
- Elastomeric
- Excellent elongation
- Reduces surface dust pick up
- VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) free
- Biocompatible (USP class VI requirements)
- Can be tinted by using silicone compatible pigments
- Anti-microbial properties (optional)

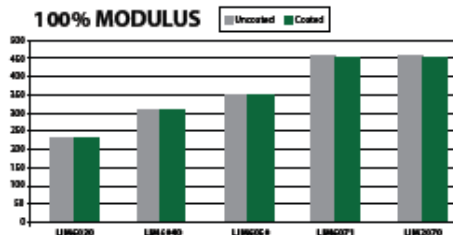
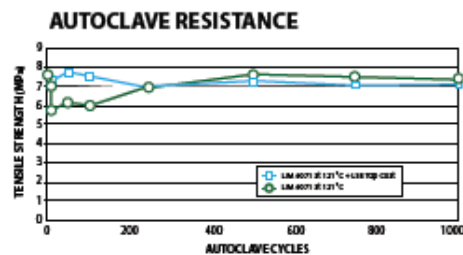
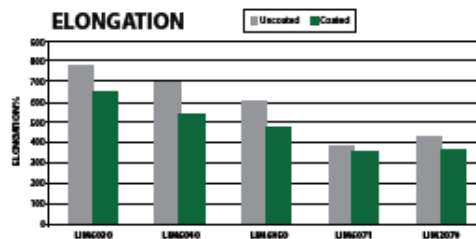
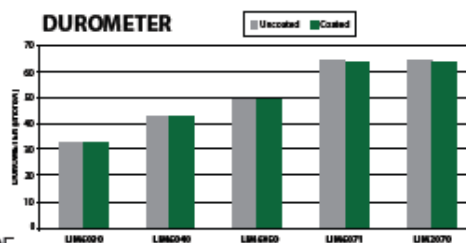
#### Disadvantages of Parylene & Silicone Lubricants

##### Parylene:

- A rigid coating that cracks on flexible silicone (physical bond)
- Requires time consuming and expensive vapor deposition process
- No anti-microbial properties

##### Silicone Lubricants:

- If not applied correctly, the lubricant can migrate
- Extra cost and step in the manufacturing process
- Contaminate other areas of manufacturing facility
- Extremely expensive
- No anti-microbial properties



5170 N. Northwest Hwy. Chicago, IL 60630 Tel: (773) 427-2084 Fax: (773) 282-9155  
Email: [info@surfacesolutionsgroup.com](mailto:info@surfacesolutionsgroup.com) • website: [www.surfacesolutionsgroup.com](http://www.surfacesolutionsgroup.com)



## C.2 Stepper Motor

17Y Series - High Torque Step Motors



FEATURES

- NEMA 17 Frame Size
- 1.8° Step Angle (0.9° and 3.6° also available)
- High Torque - Up to 100 oz-in
- High Step Accuracy and Resolution
- Low Vibration and Noise
- Can be Customized for
  - Winding Current
  - Shaft Options
  - Cables and Connectors
- CE Certified and RoHS Compliant



DESCRIPTION

The 17Y Series High Torque Step Motors offer a great value without sacrificing quality. These motors were designed to offer the highest possible torque while minimizing vibration and audible noise. A broad line of motor windings and stack lengths are available off-the-shelf, or the motors can be customized to fit your machine requirements. We can customize the winding to perfectly match your voltage, current, and maximum operating speed for maximum flexibility.

[See Accessories on this website](#) for optional motor adders, such as encoders, cables and connectors. Gearbox optionals can be found under Gearboxes.

[See compatible Drivers for the 17Y Series: MBC15081, and MBC25081TB](#)

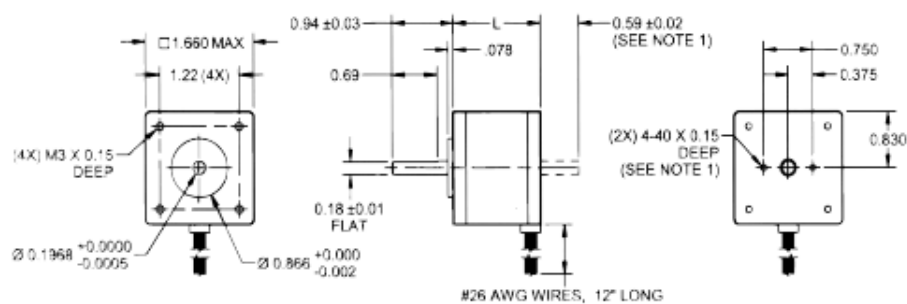
SPECIFICATIONS

Model #	NEMA Size	Bipolar Torque (oz-in)	Bipolar Current (A)	Bipolar Inductance (mH)	Rotor Inertia (oz-in-sec <sup>2</sup> )	Shaft Diameter (in)	# of Lead Wires	Weight (lbs)	L Length (in)
17Y001S-LW4	17	24	0.40	36	.00028	.197	4	0.33	1.02
17Y101S-LW4	17	31	0.28	49	.00050	.197	4	0.44	1.34
17Y102S-LW4	17	31	0.67	17	.00050	.197	4	0.44	1.34
17Y201S-LW4	17	50	0.28	120	.00076	.197	4	0.62	1.57
17Y202S-LW4	17	50	0.85	10	.00076	.197	4	0.62	1.57
17Y301S-LW4	17	62	0.28	100	.00096	.197	4	0.77	1.89
17Y302S-LW4	17	62	0.85	11	.00096	.197	4	0.77	1.89
17Y402S-LW4	17	100	0.85	29	.00143	.197	4	1.10	2.36

*Notes: All Shafts have a flat unless otherwise noted. The 7th character "S" denotes a single shaft, use "D" for double shaft. Double shafts include encoder mounting provisions. Custom cables, connectors, and windings are available upon request.*

L010174

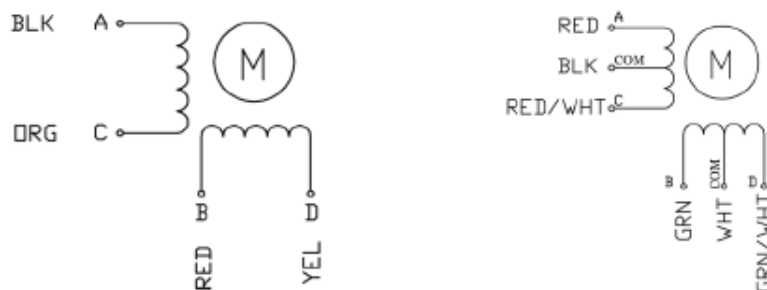
910 East Orangefair Ln. Anaheim, CA 92801
Tel. (714) 992-6990
Fax. (714) 992-0471
[www.anaheimautomation.com](http://www.anaheimautomation.com)



Note 1: Double shaft option only.

(All units are inches)

DIMENSION



WIRING INFORMATION

## C.3 Stepper Motor Encoder

Single Ended Encoders With Index Channel


FEATURES

- Small Size, Pre-Mounted to Dual Shaft Motor
- Available CPR: 32, 50, 100, 200, 250, 360, 400, 500, 720, 1000, 1024 and 1250.
- Tracks from 0 to 100,000 cycles/sec
- 2 Channel Quadrature TTL Squarewave Outputs
- Index Channel (3rd channel)
- Accepts  $\pm 0.010"$  axial shaft play
- $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+100^{\circ}\text{C}$  Operating Temperature



DESCRIPTION

Our Single Ended Encoders with an Index channel are transmissive optical encoder modules. These modules are designed to detect rotary position with a codewheel when added to the end of an Anaheim Automation dual shaft motor. These Single Ended Encoders consist of a lensed LED source and a monolithic detector IC enclosed in a small polymer package. These modules use phased array detector technology to provide superior performance and greater tolerances over traditional aperture mask type encoders. They provide digital quadrature outputs, and come standard with a third index channel output on all resolutions and are capable of sinking or sourcing 8mA each. These encoders are powered from a single +5VDC power supply. Also, they are RoHS compliant.

DIMENSIONS AND PINOUTS

**Example:** To order an encoder, add a " - ", the CPR number and a SI on the end of any Anaheim Automation dual shaft motor. For example, to place a 1000 CPR encoder on a 23Y106D-LW8, the part number would be 23Y106D-LW8-1000SI.

## 23Y106D-LW8-1000SI

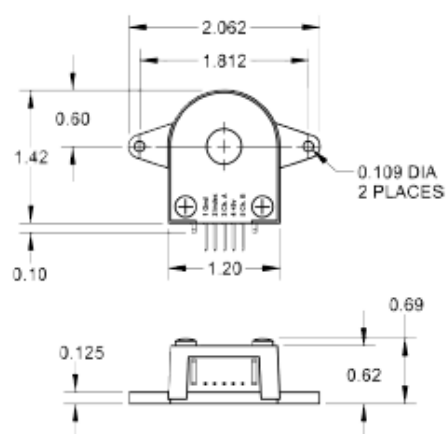
Table 1	32SI	50SI	100SI	200SI	250SI	360SI	400SI	500SI	720SI	1000SI	1024SI	1250SI
Fits NEMA Size	11-42	11-42	11-42	11-42	11-42	11-42	11-42	11-42	11-42	11-42	11-42	11-42
Counts Per Revolution	32	50	100	200	250	360	400	500	720	1000	1024	1250

L010390

910 East Orangefair Ln. Anaheim, CA 92801
Tel. (714) 992-8990
Fax. (714) 992-0471
[www.anaheimautomation.com](http://www.anaheimautomation.com)



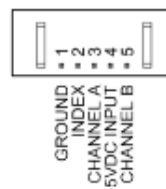
### DIMENSIONS



Note: All dimensions are in inches.

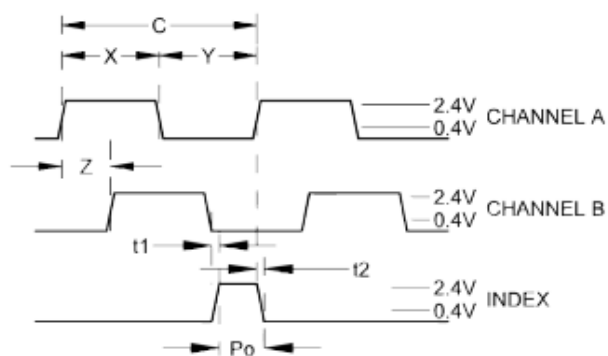
### SINGLE-END ENCODER PINOUT

TOP OF ENCODER FACING PLUG



Parameter	Max	Units
Vibration (5 to 2kHz)	20	g
Shaft Axial Play	+ / - 0.01	in.
Shaft Eccentricity Plus Radial Play	0.004	in.
Acceleration	250,000	rad/sec <sup>2</sup>

### SINGLE-END ENCODER TIMING DIAGRAMS



Rotation:

CW - B leads A  
 CCW - A Leads B



## ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATION

Model #	Description
CPR(N):	The Number of Cycles Per Revolution
One Shaft Rotation:	360 mechanical degrees, N cycles
One Electrical Degree (°e):	1/360th of one cycle
One Cycle (C):	360 electrical degrees (°e). Each cycle can be decoded into 1 or 4 codes, referred to as X1 or X4 resolution multiplication
Symmetry:	A measure of the relationship between (X) and (Y) in electrical degrees, nominally 180 °e
Quadrature (Z):	The phase lag or lead between channels A and B in electrical degrees, nominally 90°e
Index (CH I):	The index output goes high once per revolution, coincident with the low states of channels A and B, nominally 1/4 of one cycle (90°e)

Parameter	Min	Typ	Max	Units
Supply Current				
32 CPR only	-	27	30	mA
720, 1000, 1024, 1250 CPR Only	-	55	57	mA
All Other Resolutions	30	57	85	mA
Output Low				
32, 720, 1000, 1024, 1250 CPR Only	-	-	0.5	Volts
All Other Resolutions	-	-	0.4	Volts
Output High*				
32, 720, 1000, 1024, 1250 CPR Only	2.0	-	-	Volts
All Other Resolutions	2.4	-	-	Volts
Output Current Per Channel				
32, 720, 1000, 1024, 1250 CPR Only	-8.0	-	8.0	mA
All Other Resolutions	-1.0	-	5.0	mA

Description	Symbol	Min	Typ	Max	Units
Index Pulse Width					
All Resolutions	Po	60	90	120	°e
Ch. I Rise After Ch. B or Ch. A Fall					
32, 720, 1000, 1024, 1250 CPR only	t1	10	100	250	ns
All Other Resolutions	t1	-300	100	250	ns
Ch. I Fall After Ch. A or Ch. B Rise					
32, 720, 1000, 1024, 125 CPR only	t2	70	150	300	ns
All Other Resolutions	t2	70	150	1000	ns

Recommended Operating Conditions	Min	Max	Units
Temperature	-40	100	°C
Supply Voltage	4.5	5.5	Volts
Load Capacitance	-	100	pF
Count Frequency	-	100	kHz

Cable Ordering Info	Length
CBL-AA4032	1 ft.
CBL-AA4032-04	4 ft.
CBL-AA4032-10	10 ft.

\* Unloaded high level output voltage is 4.80V typically, 4.2V minimum.

## C.4 Power Supply



65W Dual Output Switching Power Supply

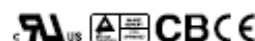


**RD-65** series



### Features :

- Universal AC input / Full range
- Protections: Short circuit/Over load/Over voltage
- Cooling by free air convection
- LED indicator for power on
- 100% full load burn-in test
- All using 105°C long life electrolytic capacitors
- Withstand 300VAC surge input for 5 second
- High operating temperature up to 70°C
- Withstand 5G vibration test
- High efficiency, long life and high reliability
- 3 years warranty



### SPECIFICATION

MODEL	RD-65A		RD-65B	
OUTPUT	OUTPUT NUMBER	CH1	CH2	CH1
	DC VOLTAGE	5V	12V	5V
	RATED CURRENT	6A	3A	4A
	CURRENT RANGE	Note 6: 0.3 ~ 6A	0.2 ~ 4A	0.3 ~ 6A
	RATED POWER	Note 6: 65W		65W
	RIPPLE & NOISE (max.)	Note 2: 80mVp-p	120mVp-p	80mVp-p
	VOLTAGE ADJ. RANGE	CH1: 4.75 ~ 5.5V		CH1: 4.75 ~ 5.5V
	VOLTAGE TOLERANCE	Note 3: ±2.0%	±6.0%	±2.0%
	LINE REGULATION	Note 4: ±0.5%	±1.5%	±0.5%
	LOAD REGULATION	Note 5: ±0.5%	±3.0%	±0.5%
INPUT	SETUP, RISE TIME	500ms, 20ms/230VAC	1200ms, 30ms/115VAC at full load	
	HOLD TIME (Typ.)	60ms/230VAC	14ms/115VAC at full load	
	VOLTAGE RANGE	88 ~ 264VAC	125 ~ 375V DC (Withstand 300VAC surge for 5sec. Without damage)	
	FREQUENCY RANGE	47 ~ 63Hz		
	EFFICIENCY (Typ.)	79%		78%
	AC CURRENT (Typ.)	2A/115VAC	1.2A/230VAC	
PROTECTION	OVERLOAD	110 ~ 150% rated output power Protection type: Hiccup mode, recovers automatically after fault condition is removed		
	OVERVOLTAGE	CH1: 5.75 ~ 6.75V Protection type: Hiccup mode, recovers automatically after fault condition is removed		
	WORKING TEMP.	-25 ~ +70°C (Refer to output load derating curve)		
ENVIRONMENT	WORKING HUMIDITY	20 ~ 90% RH non-condensing		
	STORAGE TEMP., HUMIDITY	-40 ~ +85°C, 10 ~ 95% RH		
	TEMP. COEFFICIENT	±0.03%/°C (0 ~ 50°C) on +5V output		
SAFETY & EMC (Note 7)	VIBRATION	10 ~ 500Hz, 5G 10min./cycle, period for 60min. each along X, Y, Z axes		
	SAFETY STANDARDS	UL60950-1, TUV EN60950-1 Approved		
	WITHSTAND VOLTAGE	I/P-O/P: 3KVAC I/P-FG: 1.5KVAC O/P-FG: 0.5KVAC		
	ISOLATION RESISTANCE	I/P-O/P, I/P-FG, O/P-FG: 100M Ohms/500VDC		
OTHERS	EMI CONDUCTION & RADIATION	Compliance to EN55022 (CISPR22) Class B		
	HARMONIC CURRENT	Compliance to EN61000-3-2, -3		
	EMS IMMUNITY	Compliance to EN61000-4-2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11; EN55024, EN61000-6-2 (EN55022-2) heavy industry level, criteria A		
NOTE	MTBF	265,900hrs/min. MIL-HDBK-217F (25°C)		
	DIMENSION	129*98*38mm (L*W*H)		
	PACKING	0.44Kg; 30 pcs/14.2Kg/0.72CUFT		





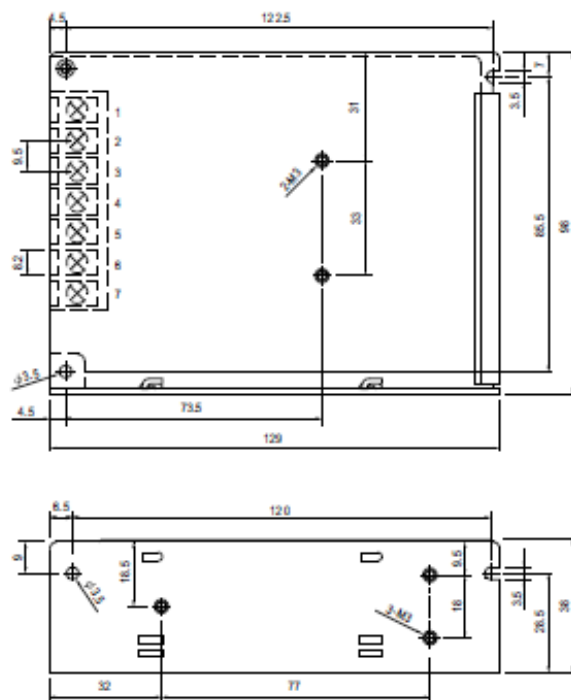
65W Dual Output Switching Power Supply



RD-65 series

### Mechanical Specification

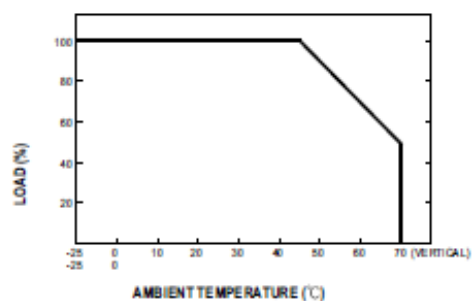
Case No. 903 Unit:mm



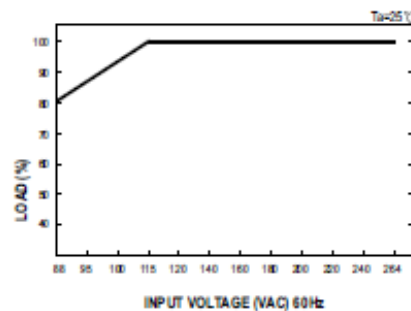
Terminal Pin. No Assignment

PinNo.	Assignment	PinNo.	Assignment
1	AC/L	4,6	DC OUTPUT COM
2	AC/N	5	DC OUTPUT +V2
3	FG ★	7	DC OUTPUT +V1

### Derating Curve



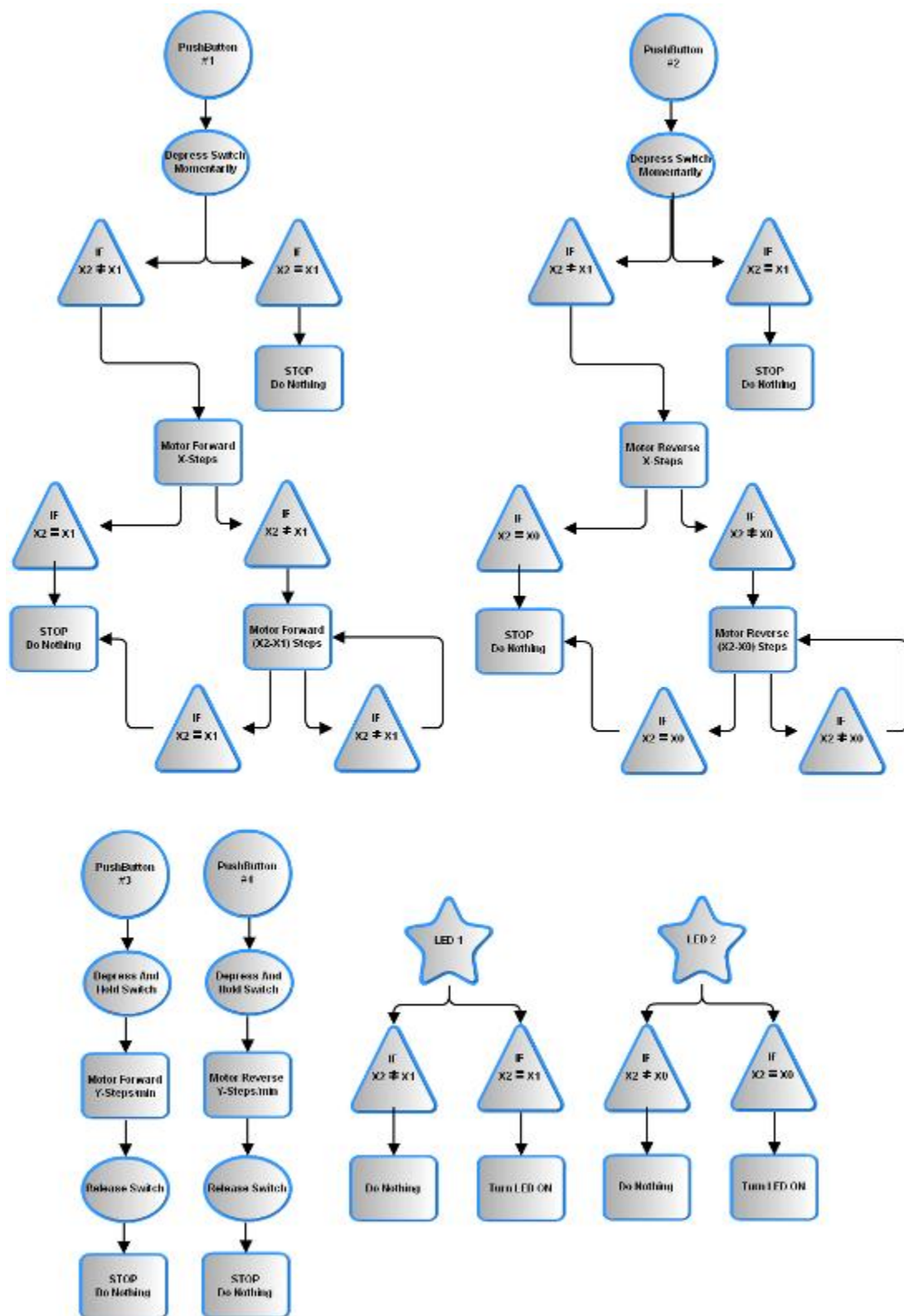
### Output Derating VS Input Voltage



File Name:RD-B-SP10C 2005-09-13

Tel: 1-973-779-8282 [www.trcelectronics.com](http://www.trcelectronics.com)

## Appendix D: Control Logic & Programming





```

/*

* Name: MatlHandlingPrgRev2.pde
* Author: Kyle Parrish and Jeff Middy
* Original Author Date: 6/14/2011
* Description: This program drives the custom built equipment designed by Jeff Middy.
* This program performs the following functions:
* 1. Drives the stepper motor in two directions, forward and reverse via manual
*    control buttons on the device.
* 2. Automatically drives the motor to its end positions either forward or reverse
*    via auto control buttons on the device.
* 3. Determines and maintains the current position of the motor by reading from a
*    quadrature encoder. This is used to determine how far to move the motor
*    without going outside the bounds it is designed to go.
*/

/* Rev2 - 7/19/2011
* Added comments
* Modified LED pin numbers
* Changed revolution distance to match tubing length
* Changed program name from MotorFinalClean to MatlHandlingPrgRev2
*/

//Include the Adafruit motor driver library.
#include <AFMotor.h>
//define the last position of the "shuttle" this last position is also the
// maximum number of steps the motor should take in the forward direction.
// TOTAL DISTANCE TO TRAVEL = 35.3 INCHES
// TOTAL NUMBER OF REVOLUTIONS = 3X TOTAL DISTANCE
// TOTAL NUMBER OF STEPS = 200X NUMBER OF REVOLUTIONS
// STEPS = 35.3x3x200 = 21180 STEPS
#define LAST_POSITION 21180

//pins A & B are both used for the quadrature encoder, these are read
// to determine what direction the motor is moving
#define pinA 2
#define pinB 3
//the LED pins light when the "shuttle" is all the way in either direction.
#define LEDmin 10
#define LEDmax 11

//define the button pin numbers
#define manualRunUp 19
#define manualRunDown 13
#define autoRunUp 17
#define autoRunDown 14

AF_Stepper motor(200, 2);
int stepsPerSecond = 120;
int truePosition = 0;
int retryCount = 1;

//here are the pin numbers
//int manualRunUp = 19;
//int manualRunDown = 13;
//int autoRunUp = 17;
//int autoRunDown = 14;
//int LEDmin = 11;
//int LEDmax = 10;

//this variable will be used to store the
// state of the button while running the motor.
int buttonState;

void setup()
{
    //first, set up the baud rate to be used by the board...
    //The maximum is 460800 baud without experiencing trouble
    Serial.begin(460800);

    //Serial.println("Setup the motor");

```

```

//define all the pins as either inputs or outputs
pinMode(LEDmin, OUTPUT);
pinMode(LEDmax, OUTPUT);
digitalWrite(LEDmin, LOW);      //Added this to correct LED pin initial
illumination
digitalWrite(LEDmax, LOW);      //Added this to correct LED pin initial
illumination

pinMode(manualRunUp, INPUT);
pinMode(manualRunDown, INPUT);
pinMode(autoRunUp, INPUT);
pinMode(autoRunDown, INPUT);

pinMode(pinA, INPUT);
digitalWrite(pinA, HIGH);      //I'm not sure why this is needed but was highly
recommended in the
//documentation that I read,
something about clearing residual charge...

pinMode(pinB, INPUT);
digitalWrite(pinB, HIGH);

//attach an interrupt in slot 0 to the function doEncoder, and then do it only on
the RISING change,
// when we ran this on any change, the number that was generated out of the
encoder was double what
// it really was, this might be because CHANGE is counting microsteps.
attachInterrupt(0, doEncoder, RISING);

//set the motor speed, for our current setup we decided that 120 RPM is the fastest
that we can run.
//limited by the maximum baud rate and clock speed of the board
(16MHz)
motor.setSpeed(120); //120
}

void loop()
{
    //First check the manual run up buttons for signal,
    // if they are pressed in(digitalRead = 1) then
    // run the motor x number of steps per second.

    checkLEDState();
    //now check the manualRunDown
    if(digitalRead(manualRunDown))
    {
        do
        {
            stepMotor(-1);
        }while(digitalRead(manualRunDown));

        //here I will need to correct any errors in the current
        // position and the true position...
    }

    if(digitalRead(manualRunUp))
    {
        do
        {
            stepMotor(1);
        }while(digitalRead(manualRunUp));
    }

    //these two work a little different, once pressed, these
    // will run the motor until it reaches the end of the line
    // LAST_POSITION, or the first position.

    if(digitalRead(autoRunUp))
    {
        runToEnd(1);
    }
}

```

```

    }

    if(digitalRead(autoRunDown))
    {
        //Serial.println(truePosition);
        runToEnd(-1);
    }
}

//this function will step the motor the number of steps that
// is required to move in about 1/10 of a second.
void stepMotor(int stepDirection)
{
    if(stepDirection > 0)
    {
        if (truePosition == 0)
        {
            powerLED(LEDmin, LOW);
            //digitalWrite(LEDmin, LOW);
        }

        if(truePosition < LAST_POSITION)
        {
            motor.step(stepsPerSecond/10, FORWARD, SINGLE);
        }
    }
    else
    {
        if (truePosition == LAST_POSITION)
        {
            powerLED(LEDmax, LOW);
            //digitalWrite(LEDmax, LOW);
        }

        if (truePosition > 0)
        {
            motor.step(stepsPerSecond/10, BACKWARD, SINGLE);
        }
    }

    //Serial.println(truePosition);

    //delay(100);
}

//This function will run the motor to the end of the line in
// either direction, this will include the correction steps.
void runToEnd(int stepDirection)
{
    if(truePosition == 0)
    {
        powerLED(LEDmin, LOW);
        //digitalWrite(LEDmin, LOW);
    }
    else
    {
        powerLED(LEDmax, LOW);
        //digitalWrite(LEDmax, LOW);
    }

    if (stepDirection > 0)
    {
        if(truePosition < LAST_POSITION)
        {
            //first, determine the number of steps needed to get to
            // the end.
            int requiredSteps = LAST_POSITION - truePosition;

            Serial.println(requiredSteps, DEC);
            //now step the motor the required number of steps.
            motor.step(requiredSteps, FORWARD, SINGLE);
        }
    }
}

```

```

        //Serial.println(truePosition);

        //Now check to make sure the shuttle is in the correct
        // position.
        retryCount = 1;

        /*
            this code is not currently in use, it may be needed to do
error checking later on but now
            it has not been used.
        while(truePosition <= LAST_POSITION || retryCount < 4)
        {
            //they do not match, adjust accordingly...
            int positionDifference = LAST_POSITION - truePosition;

            //if the difference is negative, then the true position
            // thinks that it is past the last position, we will not
            // move the shuttle in this case because this is an
            // unexpected instance that should be fixed with the
            // manual movement.
            if(positionDifference > 0)
            {
                //now move the motor the difference
                //motor.step(positionDifference, FORWARD, SINGLE);
                retryCount++;
            }
            else
            {
                break;
            }
        }
        */
    }
    else
    {
        //we are moving back to the zero position, we just need
        // to move the shuttle the true position backwards.
        if (truePosition > 0)
        {
            motor.step(truePosition, BACKWARD, SINGLE);

            if (truePosition > 0)
            {
                //move the motor again...
                //motor.step(truePosition, BACKWARD, SINGLE);
            }
        }
    }
}

//This function checks to see what, if any LEDs need to be on
void checkLEDState()
{
    //Since only once LED can be on at any given point, this logic can be combined
    // into a single if-the-else statement

    //first check if it is at zero
    if(truePosition == 0)
    {
        //it is at zero, light the zero LED...
        powerLED(LEDmin, HIGH);
        //digitalWrite(LEDmin, HIGH);
    }
    else if(truePosition == LAST_POSITION)
    {
        //it is in the last position, light the endpoint LED...
        powerLED(LEDmax, HIGH);
        //digitalWrite(LEDmax, HIGH);
    }
}

```

```

    }
    else
    {
        //if it is not at either zero or the end, turn both LEDs off.
        powerLED(LEDmin, LOW);
        powerLED(LEDmax, LOW);
        //digitalWrite(LEDmin, LOW);
        //digitalWrite(LEDmax, LOW);
    }
}

//This function will either turn on or turn off an LED, a state of HIGH will turn it on,
a state of LOW will
//    turn it off.
void powerLED(int LED, int state)
{
    digitalWrite(LED, state);
}

//This function is called from the interrupt, each time it is called a counter is
incremented, if PinA is
//    equal to PinB then the motor is moving "Forward" else it is moving "Backward".
void doEncoder()
{
    if (digitalRead(pinA) == digitalRead(pinB))
    {
        truePosition = truePosition + 1;
    }
    else
    {
        truePosition = truePosition - 1;
    }
    //Serial.println(truePosition, DEC);
}

```

## Appendix E: LS-Dyna – Deck Code

```
*KEYWORD
*TITLE
Silicone Tube Bending
$$$$$ Silicone Tube Bending Project
$$$$$ Jeff Midday
$$$$$ Creation Date: Jan. 9 2012
$$$$$ Modification & Simulation Log
$
$ 1/9/2012
$ - Setup entire model
$ - Prescribed motion is unfinished at this point
$ - Everything else is okay and checked with model checker in lsp
$
$ 2/21/2012
$ - Change Density to correct units (kg/mm^3)
$ - Change motion to new slower curve
$ - Change shrf in SECTION SHELL card to 0.83
$
$ 2/22/2012
$ - Revise Model to include a rigid body pull ring
$ - Loading set to 0.04kN
$
$ 2/24/2012
$ - Add node tracking for bend radius monitoring
$ - Up d3plot file output to every 0.1ms
$
$
$$$$$
$
$ Units: mm, kg, ms, kN, GPa, kN-mm
$
$$$$$
$
$$$$$ Prescribed Loading - Force
$
$$$$$
$
*LOAD_RIGID_BODY
$      pid      dof      lcld      sf      cid      m1      m2      m3
$      2        4        1        1      7920      7921      8079
$
*DEFINE_CURVE
$
$ A follower force of 0.04kN is prescribed for the whole simulation
$
$      lcld      sidr      scla      sclo      offa      offo
$      1
$
$      time      distance @ time
$      abscissa      ordinate
$          0          0.04
$         10          0.04
$
$$$$$
$
$$$$$ Part Materials
$
```

[illegible]

[illegible]





## Appendix F: Matlab FEA Processing Code

```
% Import CSV Script
% Last Edited : 2-26-2012

%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

folderName = '25mmx100mmt2';

filepath = strcat('C:\Documents and Settings\Jeff...
Midday\Desktop\DataForProcessing\',folderName,'\dataformatlab.csv');
cells = 190;
%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%%

% Import Data
rawData = csvread(filepath,1,0);
csvFitOutput = zeros(cells,27);
for i = 1:cells;
    xPoints = rawData(i,6:16);
    zPoints = rawData(i,17:27);
    tempOutput = [0 0 0];
    [tempOutput(1),tempOutput(2),tempOutput(3)] = circfit(xPoints,zPoints);
    % Temp Output Format is [xc,zc,R]
    % xc is center point x position
    % zc is center point z position
    csvFitOutput(i,1:5) = rawData(i,1:5);
    csvFitOutput(i,6) = tempOutput(3);
    csvFitOutput(i,7) = tempOutput(1);
    csvFitOutput(i,8) = tempOutput(2);
    csvFitOutput(i,9:30) = rawData(i,6:27);
    clear xPoints
    clear zPoints
    clear tempOutput
end

%writeFilepath = strcat('C:\Documents and Settings\Jeff
Midday\Desktop\DataForProcessing\',folderName,'\bendRadiusData.csv');

%csvwrite(writeFilepath,csvFitOutput);
```

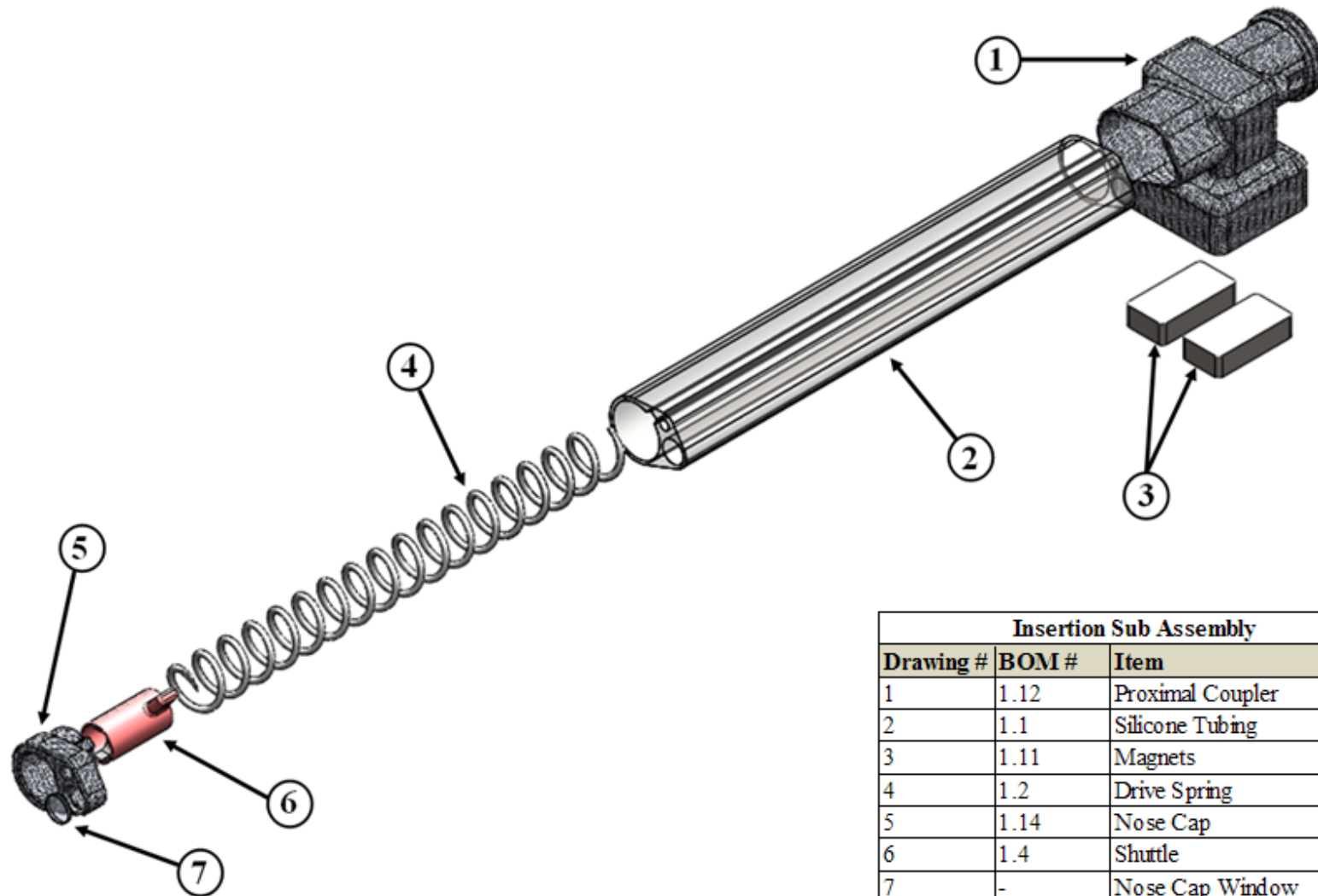
## Appendix G: Bill of Materials

Bill of Materials								
Item#	Part #	Part Name	Description	Manufacturer	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<b>1 - Insertion Assembly</b>								
1.1	-	Silicone_Tube	Multi-Lumen Extruded Silicone Tubing 80 Durometer, .625" ID	Specialty Silicone Fabricators	1	Pc.	\$6,450.00	\$6,450.00
1.2	5054K25	Drive_Spring_Rev2	Ø0.585 x 42" Custom Compression Spring - Stainless Steel	Marshall Spring	1	Pc.	\$140.00	\$140.00
1.3	CLM-3-SBP-1	Spring Plungers	3mm Ball Spring Plungers	Carr Lane	2	Pc.	\$6.95	\$13.90
1.4	Q#: 2031511-2	Shuttle_Rev3	Line Item #2: SLS Standard NyTek 1200 CF	Solid Concepts	1	Pc.	\$83.00	\$83.00
1.5	17Y402D-LW4-200SI	Stepper_Motor	1.8° Step Motor, 100oz-in torque w/ SingleEnd Indexed 200 step encoder	Anaheim Automation	1	Pc.	\$108.33	\$108.33
1.6	Q#: 2011792-2	Motor_Coupling_RP_Rev2	SLS NyTek 1200 CFw/ three threaded inserts	Solid Concepts	1	Pc.	\$83.00	\$83.00
1.7	Q#: S11-068	Tube Coating	SlickSil Coating on 25 multi-lumen Silicone tubes.	Surface Solutions Group LLC	1	Pc.	\$20.00	\$20.00
1.8	9452K72	O-Ring	#018 Buna-N O-Ring, 100ct	McMaster Carr	1	Pack	\$3.33	\$3.33
1.9	1243K31	Grease	High Temp PTFE Grease 0.75oz	McMaster Carr	1	Tube	\$4.87	\$4.87
1.10	Q#: 2045474-1	Nose_Cap_POINT_SOFT	Nose_Cap_POINT_SOFT_Rev1 Tango Plus PolyJet	Solid Concepts	1	Pc.	\$69.00	\$69.00
1.11	N35B.100.500.250	Magnets	Nickel Plated Neo Magnet 1"x.5"x.25"	Magnets Online	4	Pc.	\$4.50	\$18.00
1.12	Q#: 2047512-1	Proximal_Coupler_Modified	Item #2: NyTek 1200CF Proximal_Coupler_Modified	Solid Concepts	1	Pc.	\$116.00	\$116.00
1.13	Q#: 2047512-1	Spring Coupling	Item #3: NyTek 1200CF Spring_Coupling_Rev3	Solid Concepts	1	Pc.	\$87.00	\$87.00
1.14	Q#: 2047512-2	Nose Cap	Item #1: DMLS 14-7 SS Shotpeen Nose_Cap_Modified_Rev2	Solid Concepts	1	Pc.	\$132.00	\$132.00
							<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,328.43</b>

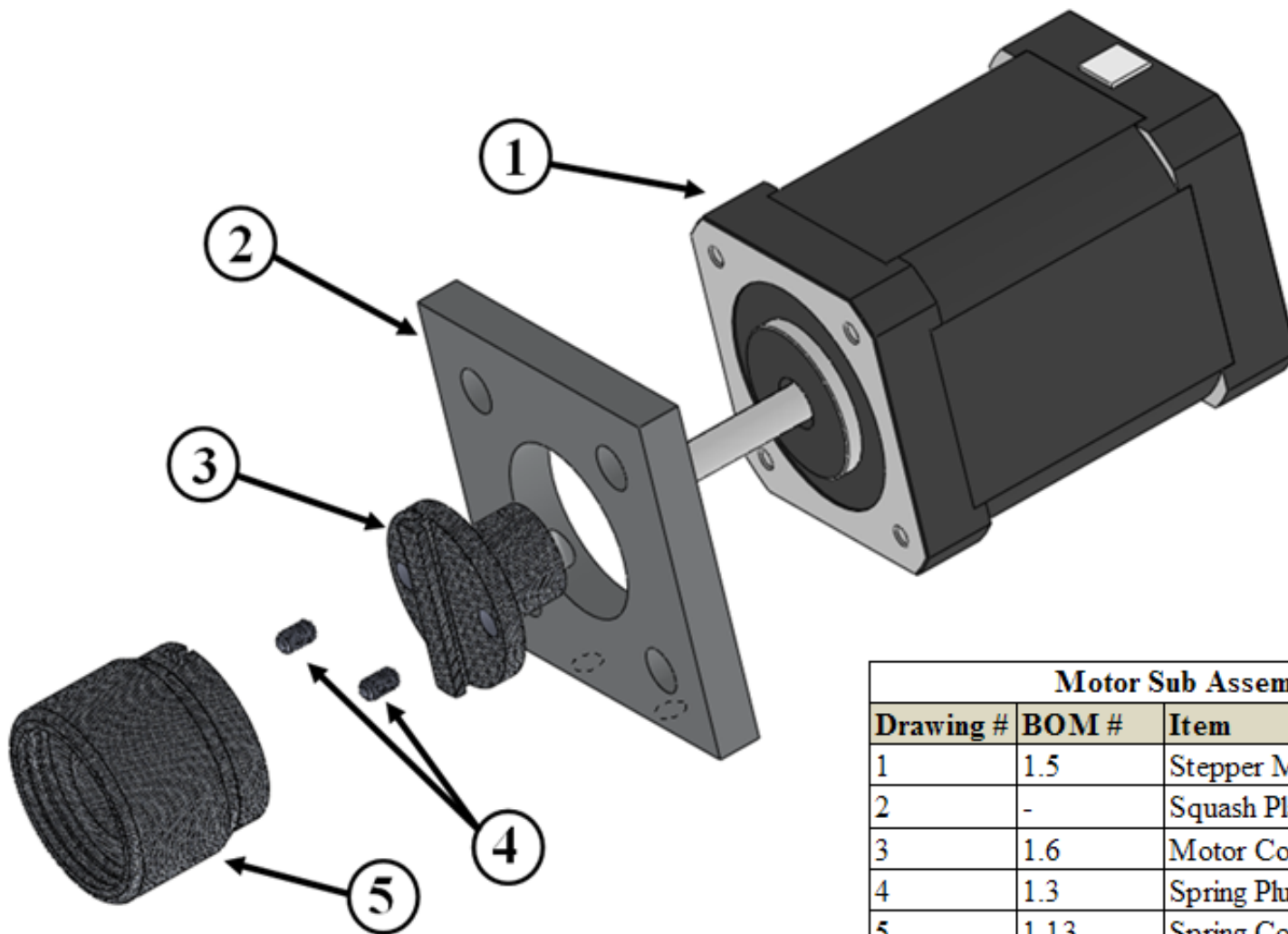
Bill of Materials								
Item#	Part #	Part Name	Description	Manufacturer	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<b>2 - Other Features</b>								
2.1	SLIPVCC37	Camera Coupler	37mm threaded camera coupler	The Tool Warehouse	1	Pc.	\$28.95	\$28.95
2.2	-	Fiberscope	48" 6mm Rubber Hose Fiber Optic Scope	Anaconda Universal Products Inc.	1	Pc.	\$300.00	\$300.00
2.3	8701K861	Bushing	1.125" UHMWP Plastic Rod	McMaster Carr	3	Feet	\$2.52	\$7.56
2.4	2418T117	O-Ring	Soft Buna-N O-Ring 5/16"ID, 1/8" Wall	McMaster Carr	1	Pack	\$9.97	\$9.97
2.5	7129T33	Knob	1/4-20 Knob w/ 1/2" Shaft	McMaster Carr	6	Pc.	\$1.84	\$11.04
2.6	5407K65	Clamp	1.25"-2.25" Worm Band Clamp	McMaster Carr	1	Pack	\$11.38	\$11.38
2.7	-	Stand	3 Way LCD Monitor TV Desk Mount Adjustable Tilting Stand	Ebay	1	Pc.	\$34.22	\$34.22
2.8	-	Lens Adapter	67mm Tube Adapter for Nikon Coolpix L120 Lens	Amazon	1	Pc.	\$19.99	\$19.99
2.9	-	Lens Adapter	Adorama Step-Down adapter ring 67mm lens to 52mm filter	Amazon	1	Pc.	\$3.44	\$3.44
2.10	-	Memory Card	Transcend 16GB Class 10 SDHC Memory Card (TS16GSDHC10)	Amazon	1	Pc.	\$24.21	\$24.21
2.11	-	Carry Case	Zeikos ZE-CA48B Deluxe Soft Medium Camera and Video Bag	Amazon	1	Pc.	\$7.18	\$7.18
2.12	NIKCP120RD	Nikon Camera	Nikon Coolpix L120 Red 14.1MP Digital Camera (Nikon #26254)	Tri State Camera & Video	1	Pc.	\$249.00	\$249.00
2.13	Q#: 0012461	Camera_Mount	Camera_Mount Fabrication & Material	TMCO	1	Pc.	\$57.18	\$57.18
2.14	Q#: 2060926-1	Trocar Port	Port.STL in NyTek 1200CF Mat'l	Solid Concepts	1	Pc.	\$101.00	\$101.00
2.15	-	Trocar Tube	Drawn Aluminum Bare Tube 6061 T6	Online Metals	1	Foot	\$5.82	\$5.82
2.16	-	Trocar Punch	Cold Finish Aluminum Round 6061 T651	Online Metals	1	Foot	\$10.07	\$10.07
2.17	9452K84	O-Ring	Bbuna-N O-Ring AS568A Dash# 120, 100 pack	McMaster Carr	1	Pack	\$4.52	\$4.52
2.18	CL-4-CP	Trocar Handle	1/2 Clamping Pin @ 5 inches long	Carr Lane	1	Pc.	\$8.25	\$8.25
							<b>Total</b>	<b>\$893.78</b>

Bill of Materials								
Item#	Part #	Part Name	Description	Manufacturer	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Total Cost
<b>3 - Control System</b>								
3.1	532-501200B00	Heat Sink	DIP 16 Finned Heat Sink for Motor Shield	Mouser	3	Pc.	\$0.59	\$1.77
3.2	511-L293B	L293B	L293B Chip (Increases Motor Shield Current Capacity for Arduino)	Mouser	2	Pc.	\$3.89	\$7.78
3.3	RB-Ada-02	Motor Shield	Motor Shield Kit for Arduino (Drive 2 Steppers, 1.2mA max)	Robot Shop	1	Pc.	\$19.50	\$19.50
3.4	RB-Phi-36	USB Cable	6' USB A to B Cable (For Arduino Communication)	Robot Shop	1	Pc.	\$2.84	\$2.84
3.5	RB-Spa-375	Barrel Jack	9V to 5.5 x 2.1mm Barrel Jack (For Arduino Power to PC Power Supply)	Robot Shop	1	Pc.	\$2.95	\$2.95
3.6	RB-lbo-84	Wire	#22 Gauge Hook-Up Wire 25'	Robot Shop	1	Pc.	\$2.25	\$2.25
3.7	RB-Ada-08	Headers	Motor Shield Stacking Headers	Robot Shop	4	Pc.	\$2.00	\$8.00
3.8	92185A106	Fastener	316 SS, 4-40 x 1/4" SHCS, pack of 50	McMaster Carr	1	Pack	\$4.93	\$4.93
3.9	7665K11	Rubber Gasket	1/2" x 1/16" x 36" Rubber Gasket	McMaster Carr	2	Pc.	\$2.25	\$4.50
3.10	8507K52	Silicone Gasket	Silicone Rubber Edging for 1/16" Plate	McMaster Carr	10	Feet	\$0.77	\$7.70
3.11	91251A197	Fastener	Black Oxide Steel 8-32 x 3/4" SHCS, pack of 100	McMaster Carr	1	Pack	\$10.84	\$10.84
3.12	91292A114	Fastener	18-8 SS M3 x 12mm SHCS, pack of 100	McMaster Carr	1	Pack	\$3.15	\$3.15
3.13	9013K811	Rubber Sheet	Rubber Sheet 6"x6"x1/16" Neoprene	McMaster Carr	1	Pc.	\$4.20	\$4.20
3.14	92196A108	Fastener	18-8 SS, 4-40 x 3/8" SHCS, pack of 100	McMaster Carr	1	Pack	\$2.87	\$2.87
3.15	RD-65B	Power Supply	AC/DC 68W Switching Power Supply 5V/8A, 24V/3A, 110VAC input	TRC Electronics	1	Pc.	\$36.43	\$36.43
3.16	611-AP4E202TZBE	Push Button	Pushbutton Switch BiColor LED (Red/Green) 5V input (24V Max)	Mouser	2	Pc.	\$15.30	\$30.60
3.17	611-AP4D207TZBE	Push Button	Pushbutton Switch SuperBlue LED 5V input (24V Max)	Mouser	2	Pc.	\$18.87	\$37.74
3.18	526-HS-ASST-9	Heat Shrink	NTE Heat Shrink Kit	Mouser	1	Pc.	\$14.33	\$14.33
3.19	845-5507560	Cable Gland	Altech Cable Gland M12x1.5	Mouser	2	Pc.	\$2.90	\$5.80
3.20	607-5102H5-5V	LED	Chicago Miniature Ø1/4" Green Panel Mount LED	Mouser	4	Pc.	\$1.66	\$6.64
3.21	538-88732-9002	USB Cable	Molex USB A to B Cable 2.69'	Mouser	1	Pc.	\$2.27	\$2.27
3.22	706-17-200321	USB Connector	Conec USB A type F/F Panel Connector	Mouser	1	Pc.	\$18.25	\$18.25
3.23	-	Push_Button_Panel_Rev1	Stainless Steel Push Button Panel	TMCO	1	Pc.	\$90.00	\$90.00
3.24	5444	USB Cable	USB Male-A to Male-A 10 ft.	MonoPrice	1	Pc.	\$1.50	\$1.50
3.25	5280	Power Cable	10ft. 18AWG Power Cord Cable	MonoPrice	1	Pc.	\$1.97	\$1.97
3.26	92319A653	Standoff	5/8" long, 4-40 Circuitboard Standoff Nylon 6/6	McMaster Carr	8	Pc.	\$1.26	\$10.08
3.27	AM010	Microcontroller	Ruggeduino 24V Microcontroller	Rugged Circuits	1	Pc.	\$39.95	\$39.95
3.28	1053-1228-ND	Fan	5V Square DC Fan 60mmx15mm 4500rpm 19CFM Fan (Orion Fans)	DigiKey	2	Pc.	\$10.26	\$20.52
3.29	1053-1378-ND	Fan Guard	Metal Fan Guard (Orion Fans)	DigiKey	2	Pc.	\$1.37	\$2.74
3.30	N35B.100.500.100	Magnets	1" X .5" X .1" Grade 35 Neo Block Nickel Plated	Magnets Online	2	Pc.	\$6.00	\$12.00
3.31	-	Base Plate	Fabrication & Material for Base Plate Part	UNL Machine Shop	1	Pc.	\$218.00	\$218.00
							<b>Total</b>	<b>\$632.10</b>

## Appendix H: Assembly Drawings

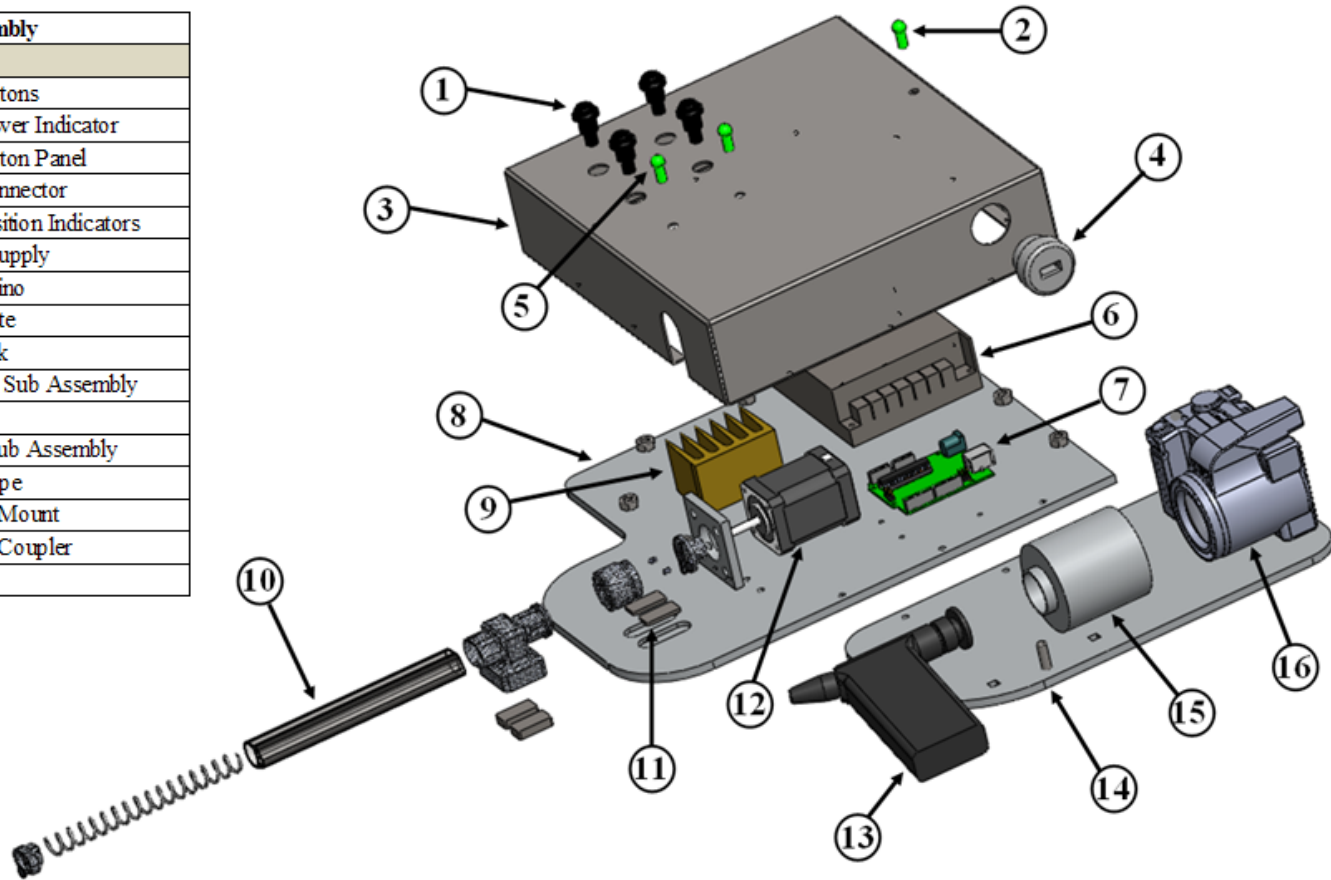


Insertion Sub Assembly		
Drawing #	BOM #	Item
1	1.12	Proximal Coupler
2	1.1	Silicone Tubing
3	1.11	Magnets
4	1.2	Drive Spring
5	1.14	Nose Cap
6	1.4	Shuttle
7	-	Nose Cap Window



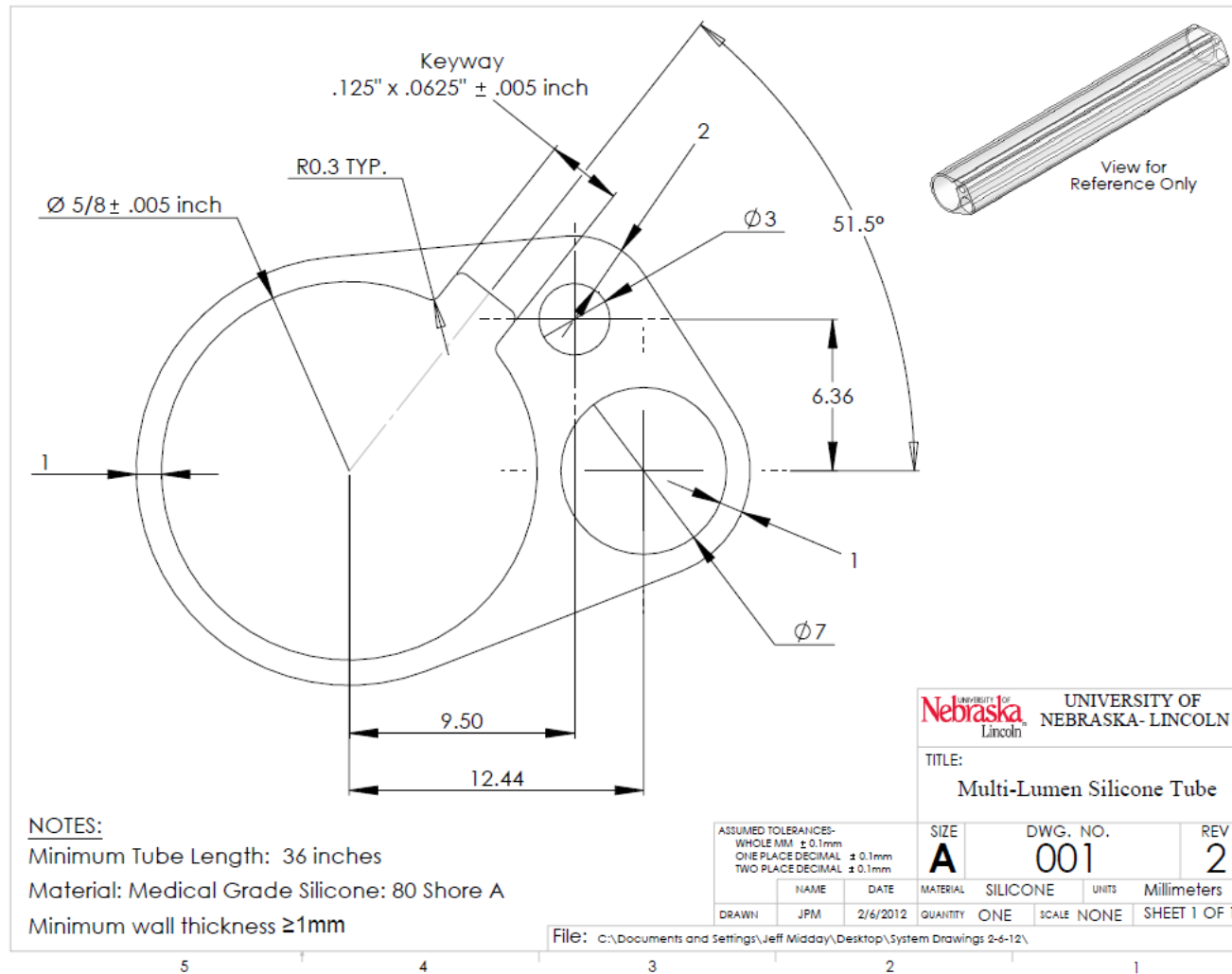
Motor Sub Assembly		
Drawing #	BOM #	Item
1	1.5	Stepper Motor
2	-	Squash Plate
3	1.6	Motor Coupling
4	1.3	Spring Plungers
5	1.13	Spring Coupling

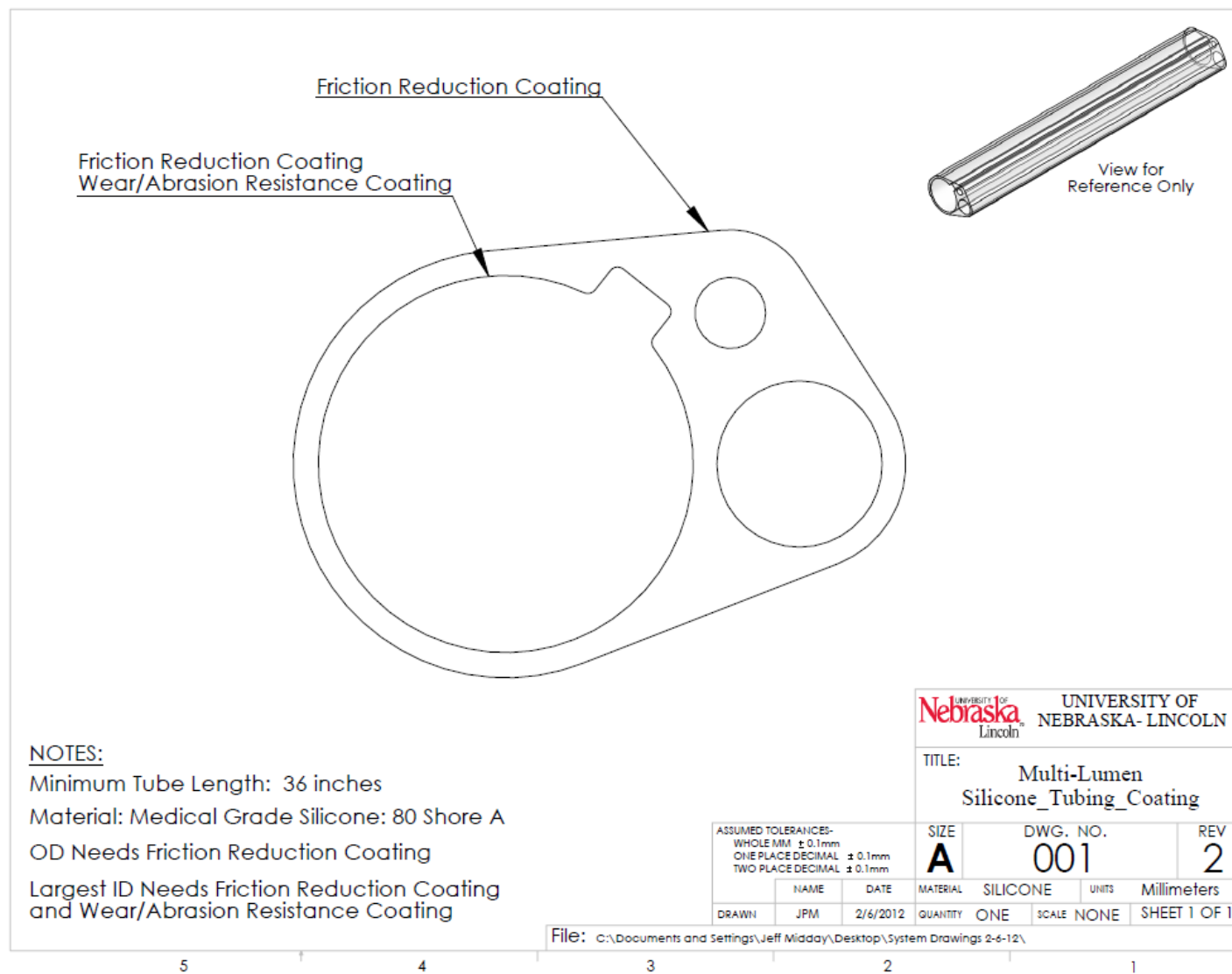
Complete Assembly		
Drawing #	BOM #	Item
1	3.16/3.17	Push Buttons
2	3.20	LED Power Indicator
3	3.23	Push Button Panel
4	3.22	USB Connector
5	3.20	LED Position Indicators
6	3.15	Power Supply
7	3.27	Ruggeduino
8	3.31	Base Plate
9	-	Heat Sink
10	-	Insertion Sub Assembly
11	3.30	Magnets
12	-	Motor Sub Assembly
13	2.2	Fiberscope
14	2.13	Camera Mount
15	2.1	Camera Coupler </td
16	2.12	Camera





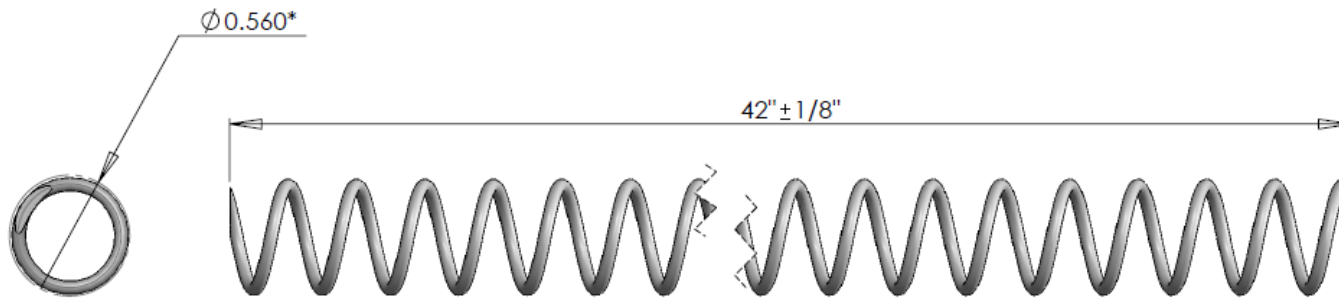
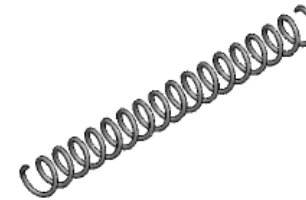
## Appendix I: Component Drawings





**NOTES:**

- Helical Coil Compression Spring
- 3 Coils per Inch
- Wire Ø: 1/16"
- Finished Length: 42"
- End Condition: Open & Ground
- Material: 304 Stainless Steel
- \*Rev2-Changes OD from Ø0.585 to Ø0.560



UNIVERSITY OF <b>Nebraska</b> Lincoln		UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA- LINCOLN	
TITLE: Drive Spring			
ASSUMED TOLERANCES- FRACTIONAL $\pm 1/16$ TWO PLACE DECIMAL $\pm .01$ THREE PLACE DECIMAL $\pm .005$	SIZE <b>A</b>	DWG. NO. 002	REV 2
NAME	DATE	MATERIAL	304 Stainless
DRAWN	JPM	2/6/2012	QUANTITY 5
		SCALE: NONE	SHEET 1 OF 1

File: C:\Documents and Settings\Jeff Midday\Desktop\System Drawings 2-6-12\

5

4

3

2

1



